



## Inter-Local Health Zones in the Context of Health Systems Development

Janice Z. Bugtong, MD, MM  
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## *Kalusugan Pangkalahatan* and ILHZs

- Local Health Systems Development is a global health sector reform strategy that is adopted in the Aquino Health Agenda, Universal Health Care or “*Kalusugan Pangkalahatan*”/KP
- Specifically, inter-LGU partnerships or Inter-local Health Zones (ILHZs) are situated in the Health Governance pillar of KP.

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## What is a Health System?

- The combination of health care institutions, supporting human resources, financing mechanisms, information systems, organizational structures that link institutions and resources, and management structures that collectively culminate in the delivery of health services to patients.

(Lassey et.al, 1997)

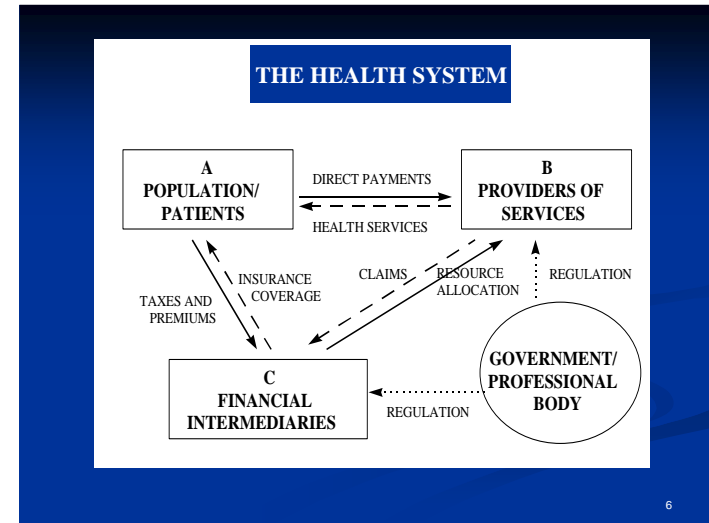
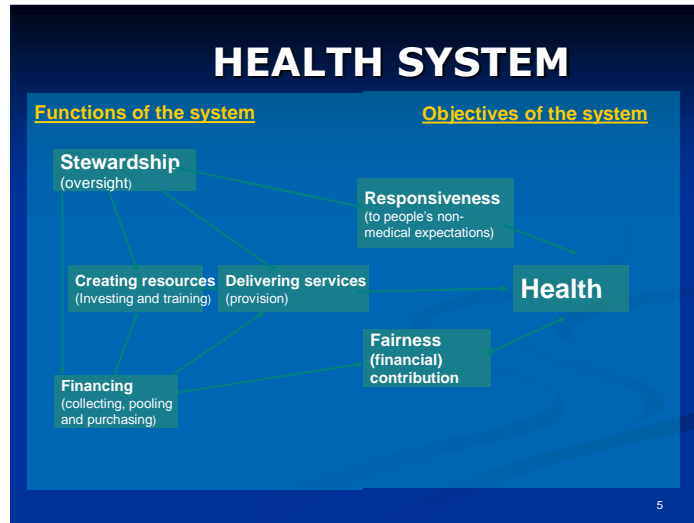
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## Fundamental Objectives of Health Systems

1. Improvement of health outcomes of the population they serve
2. Providing financial protection against the costs of ill health (*the poor need it more*)
3. Responding to people’s expectations (*public satisfaction in performance*)

Summary: Goodness, Fairness and  
Responsiveness

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## Levels of Governance, Health Delivery Systems

1. Nation-wide Health System
  2. Region-wide Health System
  3. Local Health System (City, Province, Municipal, Barangay, Inter-local cooperation systems)
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## What are Local Health Systems?

- A health system at the sub-national level  
*(Dorotan, et al)*
  - The core element of local or district health system is the integrated primary health care and the first referral hospital serving a well-defined population *(Segall, 2003)*.
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## The Basic Framework of LHS

- The basic framework of local health systems is inter-LGU partnership.
- Inter-LGU coordination: The actions of two or more LGUs to jointly adapt and implement in a coordinated manner a common set of policies, programs, projects or activities in order to achieve common health goals or purposes.

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## The InterLocal Health Zone

- The inter-local health zone is the ideal governance structure for local health system development.
  - It is a district health system in a devolved setting.
- It addresses the problem of fragmentation of the delivery of health services

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## Definition of Inter-Local Health Zone

- Any form of organized arrangement for coordinating the operations of an array and hierarchy of health providers and facilities serving a common population within a local geographic area under the jurisdictions of more than one local government (DOH, CY 2006)

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## Composition of an ILHZ

1. Primary Health Care Providers (Barangay Health Station, Rural Health Unit, health centers, community hosp., private practitioners, traditional/alternative providers, caregivers, households)
2. Core referral hospital(s): District Hospital or Provincial Hospital
3. End referral hospital(s): Higher level hospitals

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## In effect...

- An ILHZ can be seen as a **SINGLE SERVICE PROVIDER** which offers integrated public health and curative care (private and public hospitals) to its catchment constituents in a more effective and efficient manner.

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## Guiding Principles for ILHZs

1. Voluntary actions for mutual benefits
2. Flexible forms of organization
3. Results-oriented
4. Sustained and evolutionary
5. Purposive and developmental
6. Universal and non-partisan

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## How Functional is Your Zone?

Three Domains of Functionality (DOH, 2006)

1. Coordination for maximum improvement of the population's health
2. Coordination for continuity of quality care to individual patients
3. Coordination to minimize total costs of full range of health provisions

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## Some Benefits of ILHZs

1. Economical scale of operations
2. Stronger base of governance
3. Full range of services is available
4. Larger resource base
5. Wider sources of initiatives
6. Superior institutional platform for more effective program implementation

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## Sustainability Challenges of ILHZs

- The zone is purpose-driven and service-oriented
- High level of commitment and active participation
- The partnership is voluntary
- Policies (ordinances) to ensure continuity of implementation across changes in leadership
- Strong, sustained teamwork
- A sense of fulfillment, pride in accomplishment
- The zone learns from its mistakes and the experiences of others.

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## History of ILHZs in CAR

- The “ILHZ movement” evolved from the District Health System in the ‘70’s and ‘80’'s
- 1998-99: The first ILHZs were formed in all CAR provinces, with national and international technical and financial support.
- The ILHZs evolved over time. Some died and later were reborn.
- Membership and “functionality” of the zones kept changing across time, along with changes in political leadership.

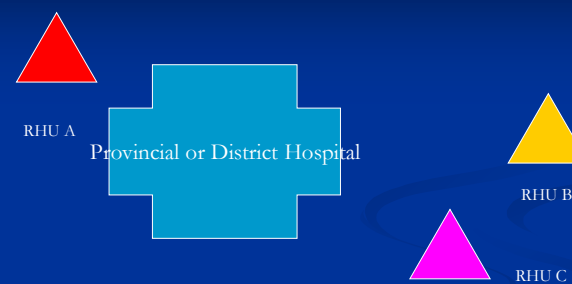
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## ILHZs in CAR

- 2006-2011: JICA supported the Project on Strengthening of Local Health System in Benguet (all 13 municipalities and 6 government hospitals belong to an active ILHZs = 4 ILHZs in Benguet)
- 2012: almost all municipalities belong to an active ILHZ, since some ILHZs have new composition or have been re-activated in Abra and Apayao

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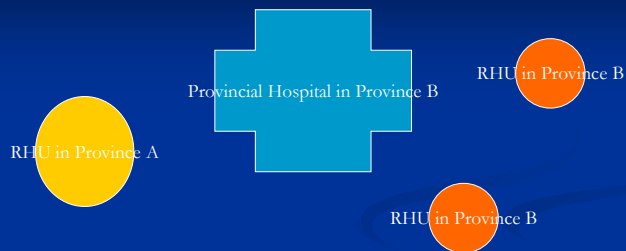
## LGU Partnership Models in CAR



1. Municipal – Provincial partnership in the same province

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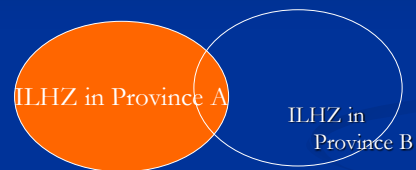
## LGU Partnership Models in CAR



2. Inter-provincial : Various RHUs belonging to two different provinces belong to one ILHZ

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## LGU Partnership Models in CAR



3. Cooperation between two ILHZs in different provinces

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# Thank You!

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## Video Presentation: The Benguet Experience

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