JICA provides Equipment and Training "No more maternal and newborn death"

- 9 RHUs and 8 Hospitals in Apayao and Abra will be receiving the equipment by December 2012. The Project will also provide equipment for more than 20 BHSs in both provinces next year.
- CHD-CAR training center and Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center will also receive training equipment and tools by December 2012.

News from Apayao

Pregnant mother dies of heavy bleeding in remote barangay

"Nu kuma adda ti asideg nga paganakan" were the words uttered by barangay kagawad Romy Dicray after Nenita (not her real name) died of excessive bleeding while giving birth at a remote area in Barangay Musimot, Apayao last February 8,2012. Most mothers in this barangay delivered at home with the help of a traditional birth attendant commonly known as *hilot*.

Barangay Musimot in the town of Kabugao was so remote that it will take approximately one and a half hour of travel by motorboat to the riverbank when the water is not rough. Further, one has to travel forty five minutes to reach the Apayao Provincial Hospital.

Nenita who was on her first pregnancy was supposed to deliver at the Apayao Provincial Hospital. She was advised by the midwife assigned there to deliver at said hospital for a safe delivery.

The husband prepared all the things Nenita will need at the hospital however strong torrential rains poured that travelling was dropped as an option. Meanwhile, a boatman was contacted to try to ferry them across the river but the situation proved dangerous "Delikado ti bumalasiw ta pirmi nga nangato ti danum" the boatman said. There was no way to contact the midwife because there is no signal in the area.

The family resorted to call the hilot who attended to the delivery. The hilot did all she can to stop the bleeding but the mother died. "pirmi iti dara nga rimwar ta haan nga makaraur jay kadkadwana, masapul kuma nga ipan tayu isuna jay hospital" said the hilot. Only the newly born daughter survived.

Project Chief Advisor, Dr. Tobe interviews midwives about TCL



Dr. Makoto Tobe, Chief Advisor of Japan International Cooperation Agency – System Science Consultants, Inc. (JICA-SSC) during the technical working Group meeting of Apayao ensured that the Barangay Health Station of Madatag will be among those to be equipped in 2013. "We hope that there will be no more maternal death that will happen in this barangay in the future", Dr. Tobe finished.

Joseph C. Amid, Municipal Mayor of Kabugao in response allocated Php 200, 000.00 to be used to repair the facility. He further ensured to assign a permanent midwife in the facility.



An Interview with a mother in Barangay Health Station of Sta. Filomina in Calanasan, Apayao

News from Abra

Barangay Officials seek support for equipment provision

The barangay officials of Brgy Tamac, Villaviciosa, Abra led by Bgry Captain Ramon Escobar are urgently asking Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA)-SSC to provide equipment for their birthing health facility. The need was told to the assessment team led by Manuela F. Munar, JICA field consultant for Abra during their visit to the barangay June 25 of this year.

Barangay Tamac, Villaviciosa, Abra with more or less 800 population is one of the Geographically Isolated and Depressed Areas in the province.

Patients seeking medical and obstetric care has to take the circuitous route of passing through the province of Ilocos Sur in going to the Villaviciosa Medicare and Community Hospital or the Abra Provincial Hospital. Brgy Cpt. Ramon Escobar of Brgy Tamac said that the long hours of travel may cause the loss of lives of mothers and others seeking medical help.

During the monitoring and validation of birthing facilities done in the province, Barangay Captain Escobar and some of the Barangay Councils stressed the need of a birthing facility that would serve the community and hopefully sustain their zero maternal and newborn death. He said that", though the barangay is able to fund the construction of a barangay health station, equipment needed to make it function as a birthing facility are still lacking." We are lobbying for Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) through the project dubbed as "Cordillera-Wide strengthening of local health system for effective and efficient delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services, to consider the equipping of our BHS as a birthing facility."

Mayor Marjorie L. Montalbo of Villaviciosa, Abra had also ensured sufficient health budget for the municipality, the provision of essential drugs and supplies, and the necessary manpower for the Tamac Barangay Health Station.

The moved of the local officials to make Tamac BHS as a birthing facility would certainly strengthen the .local health system, improved referral system, increase the utilization of health services including the effective and efficient provision of maternal and child health care.



JICA supports BEmONC (Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care) Training

The BEmONC training is aimed to strengthen the capacity of the professional health personnel on managing the critical stages of pregnancy and childbirth including the essential newborn care. It is envisioned to address the risk of continuously threatening lives of pregnant women and their newborn, for prevention of maternal mortality and newborn mortality.

On 4 September, the Project has started providing this skills-based 11-day training on Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) for the teams of doctors, nurses and midwives at Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC). It was attended by 7 teams or 21 professional health personnel from the 5 district hospitals of Benguet province and 2 district hospitals of Apayao province. The training was facilitated by the DOH-recognized trainers of BEmONC from BGHMC headed by Dr. Jessie A. Diaz.







The 1st batch have received their certificate of training last September 14, 2012 and expected to handle their deliveries within the standard management emergency obstetric and newborn care protocol and able to qualify as accredited service provider by PhilHealth. They will be evaluated after 6 months by their trainers for their Certificate of Proficiency.

So far, 64 health professionals from Apayao, Abra and Benguet provinces have undergone the training. Along with JICA's efforts to provide necessary equipment to the birthing facilities, these trained personnel are expected to contribute to the reduction of maternal and newborn death.

(Photos: Trainees at Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center)

News from Benguet



Efficient Barangay Action for Maternal and Child Health Team (EBAMCH)



What is EBAMCH?

The EBAMCH Teams are organized Community Volunteers tasked to assist in the efficient delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services, specifically to the identified poor families in the 140 barangays of Benguet. This initiative aims to contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of decreasing child and maternal deaths, and the government's Universal Health Care (UHC) Agenda.

What are the Roles and Functions of the EBAMCH teams?

- 1. Assist the families to identify their health needs
- 2. Provide information on the following:
 - proper birth spacing
 - Newborn Screening
 - complete required antenatal care visits
- 3. Encourage facility-based delivery and skilled birth attendance
- 4. Provide postpartum and postnatal care
- 5. Refer families to appropriate health providers
- 6. Facilitate enrolment and availment of PhilHealth benefits