

## JICA Apayao Solidifies MNCHN Program to Municipality Counterparts

Seven municipalities comprising of Sta. Marcela, Pudtol, Luna, Flora, Conner, Kabugao and Calanasan were able to integrate emergency plans of MNCHN programs into the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction Management (BDRRM) of the different barangays in the said municipalities. To date out of 135 barangays of the province, 135 MNCHN Emergency plans were crafted and incorporated into the BDRRM Plans.

Their barangay emergency plans included among others the following activities: having an agreement with transport owners, identification of vehicles to be used during emergency especially for barangays that do not have ambulances/designated emergency vehicles, budget allocation for gas of any emergency transport, acquisition of or request for emergency transport, maintain the use of existing emergency transport for referral, purchase of mobile phones for the barangay, conduct of MNCHN orientation to the community during assemblies and Family development sessions.

The integration proved to be a milestone in promoting MNCHN healthcare. Consequently, on commonality among the municipalities, the orientation and planning workshop became an eye opener to barangay officials.

For example, in Calanasan Municipality, specifically in barangay Langnao, since they have a difficult terrain and no access road they formed a "bulig group" (support group). It is a group of volunteer males who will carry the hammock in cases of emergency where the patient has to be transported to the nearest facility or where there is a road network. In addition, in barangay Tanglagan of the same municipality, there is the so-called "badang (support/help) movement" where each household donates P20 pesos whenever there is sick member or a household who is on emergency situation in their "purok" (sitio). This helping mechanism is not limited to pregnancy related emergencies. A purok treasurer is designated to collect the amount from the households and gives the money to the affected family. This practice has been there even



Last July 25, 2014, Apayao Province conducted their workshop entitled "Health Summit Cum Barangay MNCHN Emergency Planning".

before the project however, the said workshop inspired the barangay officials to support this with a resolution for sustainability purpose.

In the municipality of Pudtol, some barangays will identify halfway houses near the birthing facilities for the pregnant mother to stay while waiting for her delivery and provide this facility stove for cooking. In addition, the barangays adopted the "buntis bank" by providing pregnant women with bamboos to be utilized as their savings bank. The amount saved will be utilized by the mothers as an emergency finance during delivery.

For better participation, each municipality has had a unique way of conducting the activity, like for example in Conner Municipality which dubbed the workshop as "Health Summit cum Barangay MNCHN Emergency Planning Workshop". This summit was participated in by Barangay captains, kagawad on health, CHT members, Municipal Officials, Chief of Hospital of CDH, PDHO, DOH rep, JICA-SSC staff, PHO and PhilHealth representative. The lectures and information tackled during the summit were not only limited to MNCHN but it also included the presentation of the roles of the barangay in the MNCHN Program, health situationer where the health accomplishments of the different municipalities and barangays were presented and PhilHealth advocacy to ensure that the pregnant women are PhilHealth members at the time of delivery.

JICA collaborated with the Municipal Health Officers and PHNs who spearheaded the activity with technical support from the PHO, project team member, PDOHO staff and MLGOO.



## Project for Cordillera-wide Strengthening of the Local Health System for Effective and Efficient Delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services

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### PhilHealth Conducts Orientation for Pregnant Women Without PhilHealth Coverage

As part of its commitment to provide health insurance coverage to all Filipinos and in consonance with the objective of the Project, PhilHealth has stepped up advocacy in marketing its program for pregnant women. This orientation aims to raise the awareness of mothers on the importance of being vigilant and prepared when it comes to their health and their new born. Likewise, it also aims to inform them of the benefits that PhilHealth provides and entice them to become members. On the initiative of the local government units, through the Municipal Health Office, they identified the pregnant women in their respective areas and submitted the list to the Benguet Local Health Insurance Office (LHIO).

It was in the municipality of Kabayan, Benguet where the first of a series of orientations took place. There were 50 participants composed of pregnant women, husbands and 4Ps parent leaders. The main topics discussed were Membership, Benefits and Benefits Availment of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP). Right after the orientation, pregnant women who have no PhilHealth coverage were absorbed by the LGU of Kabayan and will be enrolled under their joint sponsorship with the provincial government.



A PhilHealth field officer explains benefits, availment and membership.

and the RHU to follow-up these application forms and make certain that the pregnant women will enroll in PhilHealth.

Through these activities, PhilHealth will be able to disseminate its programs and ensure that it reaches the grassroots areas of all 13 municipalities of Benguet Province.

### DOH-CAR Expands JICA-supported Project to Kalinga, Mt. Province, Ifugao and 21 Abra Municipalities

The Department of Health-Cordillera Administrative Region (DOH-CAR) Office has decided to expand the project, "Cordillera-wide Strengthening of the Local Health System for Effective and Efficient Delivery of Maternal and Child Health Services", to the Provinces of Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao and the 21 municipalities of Abra effective August 2013.

According to the Regional Director of DOH-CAR Office, Dr. Valeriano Jesus V. Lopez, the initiative is part of the continuing commitment of the Department of Health on providing appropriate technical assistance to all local government units in Cordillera Administrative Region on saving the lives of the mothers and newborn. Specifically, Director Dr. Lopez reiterated that the purpose of the project expansion is to strengthen the local health system in the provinces of Kalinga, Mountain Province and Ifugao

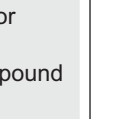
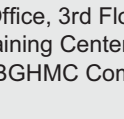
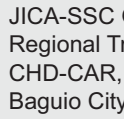
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Pregnant women and mothers register at the venue in Kabayan, Benguet.

The second orientation was in Bakun. There were 44 participants composed of 25 pregnant women, two husbands, walk-in clients at the Rural Health Unit and several employees of the LGU.

Afterwards, the pregnant women were directed to the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) where they filled-up PhilHealth membership forms. The Benguet LHIO coordinated with the MSWDO



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to support the implementation of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition (MNCHN) strategy.

The plan kicked-off its implementation in August 2013 with the following major accomplishments as of September 2014:

- ▶ 134 health facilities improved its infrastructure through DOH-Health Facilities Enhancement Program amounting to 354 million pesos;
- ▶ 139 health facilities were provided medical and non-medical equipment through DOH-Health Facilities Enhancement Program amounting to 357 million pesos;
- ▶ 11 doctors, 92 nurses and 125 midwives were deployed by DOH;
- ▶ 5,800 newborn screening kits were provided by DOH amounting to 3.15 million pesos;
- ▶ 8 teams (doctors, nurses and midwives) were trained on the regular 11-day training on Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC);
- ▶ 35 midwives were trained on Harmonized BEmONC;
- ▶ 21 Rural Health Units and 12 Barangay Health Stations were accredited by PhilHealth for Maternity/newborn Care Package;
- ▶ DOH provided monetary incentives to 7,798 members of Community Health Team (CHT) amounting to 10.049 million pesos; and
- ▶ DOH provided logistical support to CHT such as 1,063 blood pressure apparatus and flipcharts.

In the remaining 3 months of 2014 (October to December), DOH-CAR Office will expedite the processing of the BEmONC Certification to all birthing facilities and will give priority to the Rural Health Units and Barangay Health Stations for them to be accredited with PhilHealth for Maternity/Newborn Care Package. The processing will also include the License to Operate as it is required by PhilHealth.

Moreover, Dr. Makoto Tobe, Project Chief Advisor, disclosed that the project will extend their financial and technical support to the provinces of Kalinga, Mountain Province, Ifugao and the remaining 21 municipalities of Abra on strengthening IEC activities for CHT members and PhilHealth advocacy.



**Dr. Valeriano Jesus V. Lopez**  
Regional Director, DOH-CAR

### DOH-CAR Launches Monitoring and Supervisory System For All Birthing Facilities

“All district hospitals, rural health units, barangay health stations and private clinics providing birthing services will be closely monitored and supervised to prevent maternal and newborn deaths” says Dr. Valeriano Jesus V. Lopez, the Regional Director of Department of Health-Cordillera Administrative Regional (DOH-CAR) Office. He added, “This system will ensure that doctors, nurses and midwives will maintain the quality maternal and newborn health services in accordance with the Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) protocol of the Department of Health”.

BEmONC Monitoring and Supervisory System was designed as one of the primary tools to assist the Local Government Units on safeguarding the appropriate clinical practice intended for mothers giving birth. In collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency-System Science Consultants (JICA-SSC), the system's manual was developed in July 2014 with technical assistance from BEmONC trainers of Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC), JICA-SSC Experts and representatives from the Provincial Health Office and Provincial Hospitals in 6 provinces plus Baguio City.



Health medical professionals undergo BEmONC training at Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center

The system was launched in August 2014 in the provinces of Abra, Apayao and Benguet through training to their respective organized BEmONC Monitoring and Supervisory Team. The provinces of Kalinga, Mountain Province and Ifugao are scheduled to be given the same training in October 2014. According to Dr. Mary Jane Munoz, the Men and Women's Health Cluster Chief of DOH-CAR Office, this scheme was identified during the conduct of the Maternal and Neonatal Death Review as one of the most important interventions to avert maternal and neonatal deaths.

Dr. Makoto Tobe, reiterated that the system is essential in ensuring complete and appropriate emergency obstetric and newborn care especially for birthing facilities, like barangay health stations, where there is no doctor. The BEmONC monitoring and supervisory team plays a critical role in providing technical assistance to make quality maternal and newborn care available and accessible even in the remote areas.



20 meters to the Finish Line and Still Smiling! With Mayor JR Seares (Dolores), Dr. Darbie Madriaga (MHO-Dolores), Ms. Cristeta Turqueza (PHO), and Ms. Manuela Munar (JICA-SSC)

### DOLASAN ILHZ Successfully Conducts Fun Run For Mother and Child



4 Prenatal Check-Ups, Delivery at the Health Facility, and 2 Postpartum Check Ups

As early as 4:30 AM, the surroundings of the Dolores Municipal Hall was already crowded with runners eager to participate in the First-ever fun run for the Mother and Child.

Dubbed as “Run for the Two, Run 4D2”, the event was hosted by the Inter Local Health Zone of the Municipalities of Dolores, Lagangilang, and San Juan (DOLASAN ILHZ) who have made it a mission to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 (reduce child mortality) and 5 (improve maternal health).

The activity and all its advertisements publicize the acronym 4D2, which stands for at least, prescribed by the World Health Organization for a safe pregnancy. The ILHZ is expected to further intensify the advocacy for 4D2 in the form of health teachings as well as incentives for 4D2 compliant mothers and pregnancy partners.

Led by Dolores Mayor Robert Victor G. Seares, Jr., who is also the Chairman of the ILHZ, participants ran and completed one of the four courses available; 100 meters, 3km, 5km, and 7km. Among those who participated include the Elected Officials and Department Heads of the

three municipalities, Staff of the three Local Government Units as well as from the Dolores Medicare Community Hospital, Abra Provincial Health Office, Abra Provincial Hospital, Abra PhilHealth Office, Dolores Police, professional runners who were sponsored by the St. Therese Wellness Center and many others. Upon seeing the multitude of runners who expressed their enjoyment, Mayor Seares called for a quarterly conduct of the Fun Run.

Ms. Manuela Munar, ABRA field consultant of the project, congratulated the ILHZ, not just for the success of the fun run, but also for their compelling performance in formulating and implementing activities for the health of the mother and her child. JICA was instrumental to the creation of both DOLASAN and VPP (Villaviciosa-Pilar-Pennarubia) ILHZ in 2012 and have been supporting and guiding them ever since.

She also revealed that during the evaluation conducted by JICA last June 2014, the performance of the DOLASAN ILHZ were highly commended. As a result, JICA decided to expand their project to all 27 municipalities of Abra.