



MACHI HEALTH NEWS

Issue 1

December 2011



From the Director's Desk

by Edgardo M. Gonzaga, M.D., MSc., CESO III - Director IV, DOH CHD-EV

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the JICA SMACHS-EV (Strengthening Maternal and Child Health Services in Eastern Visayas) Project Team headed by Chief Advisor Ms. Satoko Ishiga for their continuous effort, compassion and passion to work for the people in Eastern Visayas—particularly pregnant women and neonates—for the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality.

The SMACHS-EV Project is being implemented by the Department of Health, Center for Health Development Eastern Visayas (DOH-CHD EV) together with the Project Team along with the Leyte Province and Ormoc City since July 2010.

The project activities are also wide-range including, but not limited to, community mobilization, governance, capacity building for health workers from the barangay, municipal/city up to the provincial and regional levels, and facility enhancement. Support of the local chief executives and heads of related offices is key in ensuring the success of carrying out these activities. This is the reason why the project has to work closely with Gov. Jericho Petilla of Leyte, Mayor Eric Codilla of Ormoc, municipal mayors and chairpersons of the ILHZ, among others.

Nevertheless, the implementers including the Project Team have brought their leadership into full play and performed excellent coordination among those stakeholders and counterparts for each activity. You can easily see how the first project year has ended with significant achievements as planned, namely:

1. Trained 81 health professionals on Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC), and initiated the establishment of supportive supervision system with the project-trained health professionals from the referral hospitals as the supportive supervisors over the BEmONC trained RHU staff.
2. Provided medical equipment to 18 Rural Health Units (RHUs), 1 Community Hospital (CH), 1 Municipal Hospital (MH) in Leyte Province and 5 District Health Centers (DHCs) in Ormoc City to be accredited as PhilHealth Maternal Care Package Plus (MCP+) facilities and to become BEmONC service providers.
3. Trained 246 trainers and supervisors for Community Health Teams (CHTs) and 3,400 CHT workers. As a complementary effort to the training, the Project has developed relevant training CHT materials e.g. CHT Guidebook, and translated the Mother and Child Book from English into Waray and Cebuano dialects in collaboration with the DOH-CHD EV, Leyte PHO and Ormoc CHO.
4. Provided assistance to the Province in the organization and operationalization of the Inter-

Local Health Zones (ILHZs) by conducting regular meetings, maternal death reviews (MDRs) at ILHZ level, and in establishing the health referral system.

As a project manager, I am very proud of the implementers for the above-mentioned achievements. Congratulations!

Since August 2011, the second project year has started and the JICA SMACHS-EV Project Team is working with enthusiasm every day together with DOH-CHD EV. I am confident that we will complete the second project year with great achievements, and save more lives of pregnant women and babies in Eastern Visayas.



(L-R) Hon. Bernard Remandaban, Ms. Satoko Ishiga, Dir. Edgardo Gonzaga, Mr. Masanori Kuriso, Dr. Norberto Oja

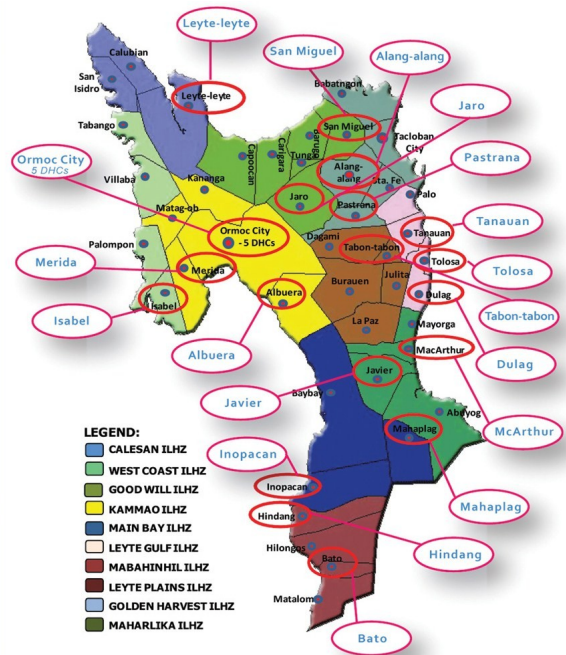
IN THIS ISSUE:

SMACHS-EV 101	2
EVRMC : The 1st BEmONC Training Center in Region 8	3
ILHZ Meeting	4
CHT Training	5
IEC Materials	6
The SMACHS Team	7
Up coming Activities	8

SMACHS - EV Project 101

Strengthening **Maternal And Child Health Services** in Eastern Visayas or **SMACHS-EV** is an initiative of the Philippine government through the Department of Health – Center for Health Development Eastern Visayas (DOH-CHD EV) with funding and technical support from JICA to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality in Eastern Visayas.

At the end of its term the project is envisioned to have contributed in achieving the Philippine’s commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of decreasing child mortality and improving maternal health by 2015. It prioritizes 18 RHUs, 2 hospitals in Leyte Province and 5 District Health Centers in Ormoc City as its project sites.



The Province of Leyte and Ormoc City are located west of Samar Island, north of Southern Leyte and south of Biliran, Eastern Visayas, Philippines.



OVERALL GOAL

Rapidly reduce maternal mortality and Infant mortality in the target areas of Eastern Visayas (Leyte and Ormoc)

PROJECT PURPOSE

Increase the number of pregnant women and newborns who receive safe pregnancy, safe delivery, and postpartum care services in the target areas in Eastern Visayas.

PROJECT OUTPUT

1. Increase the number of facilities providing BEmONC/MNCHN services
2. Enhancement of the technical skills of government service providers in BEmONC/MNCHN services.
3. Enhancement of the function of DOH-CHD EV and PHO/CHO in achieving and maintaining quality BEmONC/MNCHN services.
4. Institutionalization and operation of Community Health Teams (CHTs) in areas covered by the proposed BEmONC facilities.
5. Enhancement of political support for pregnant women and their families in accessing BEmONC facilities.

Principles of Implementation

1. Effective project implementation by maximizing utilization of existing systems and resources
2. Development of a feasible and realistic monitoring system
3. Development of a feasible work plan
4. Effective cooperation and coordination with multi-layered/multi-sectored stakeholders
5. Consideration of political transition and policy change
6. Development of an effective communications strategy for disseminating the project outcomes



LATEST NEWS

EVRMC : The First BEmONC Training Center in Region 8

The Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC), a level IV DOH-retained hospital, has recently been recognized and accredited as a Training Center for Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) by the DOH Central Office last May of 2011.

This recognition added to EVRMC's feat as the only government teaching and training hospital in Eastern Visayas. EVRMC serves a crucial role being the end referral hospital of all government hospitals in Region 8. To enhance its ca-

capacity as a training institution, the JICA SMACHS-EV Project has donated some training equipment to EVRMC. The equipment are intended to enable EVRMC to provide appropriate and effective training on BEmONC.

With EVRMC now fully accredited and equipped as a BEmONC Training Center, it has accommodated the first team training on BEmONC from December 5-16, 2011 with participants coming from Eastern Visayas. Three teams are from Leyte, including one team coming from the Project site.



Supportive Supervision initiated in Leyte & Ormoc

A three-day training was conducted at Hotel Alejandro, Tacloban City. The training was aimed to train 9 referral hospital BEmONC teams and the Ormoc City team to become Supportive Supervisors to BEmONC RHUs/DHCs/Community hospital and Municipal hospital in the ILHZs and in Ormoc City to ensure quality BEmONC services.

All participants who attended were able to successfully complete the training. The training primarily consisted of lectures on understanding the concept of Supportive Supervision (S.S.V), the different checklists to use and the BEmONC clinical forms which are used in RHUs, DHCs, CH and MH. A field practice on how to conduct S.S.V. with facilitators was a highlight on the second day of the training.

The comments and feedbacks from the participants were very positive and they had already been ready to become supervisors by the end of the training. On the last day of the training, each S.S.V Team had already plotted their schedules on when to conduct the first S.S.V in their respective areas in October, each with

one facilitator. Some of the S.S.V Teams have already carried this out in their respective RHUs, DHCs, CH and MH.



"Supportive Supervision" involves guiding, helping and encouraging staff "to improve their performance" and "to meet the defined standards of their employer".

MCH Resolutions passed during the 1st Joint ILHZ Board Meeting in Metro Manila



The Board Members during the signing of the first resolution made to promote maternal health in Eastern Visayas last November 10-11, 2011 in Tiara Oriental Hotel, Makati, Metro Manila.

Hon. Carlos Jericho Petilla, Governor and Board Chairperson of the 10 Inter local Health Zones (ILHZs) in Leyte Province, concurred the resolutions on Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and the Health Referral System (HRS) as adopted by the Mayors and Chief of Hospitals during the 1st Joint ILHZ Board Meeting in Makati, Metro Manila. The Joint Board Resolution No.1 (Series of 2011) recommends to all municipalities in the Province of Leyte to adopt an ordinance on Facility-Based Delivery, RHU/Birthing Facility User's and Newborn Screening Fees, and Incentives for Community Health Team members.

The main objective of the resolution is to increase the use of health facilities and thereby significantly reduce the maternal and neonatal deaths in the Province. The HRS on the other hand, in separate resolutions, aims to promote efficient and effective delivery of health services to the people. It serves as a standard guide in the management and handling of referral cases. At the end of the meeting, the ILHZs have developed an action plan to translate the MCH resolution into an ordinance at the LGU level and implement the HRS manual. The next important step now that the Board resolution on MCH has been in place is for the municipal and city (Baybay) local government units (LGUs) to enact and implement an ordinance in support to this worthwhile move of the Board.

*"For the poorest of the poor to have full access to quality health services in birthing facilities and hospitals is our priority agenda."
- Gov. Jericho L. Petilla*

Attendance

- * 35/41 (85%) of Mayors in Leyte
- * 9/10 (90%) of ILHZ TMC Chairpersons
- * 36/44 (82%) of MHOs
- * Hon. Carlos Jericho Petilla, Governor
- * Hon. Bernard Remandaban, PHB Chair
- * Hon. Remedios Petilla, President, Leyte League of Municipalities
- * DOH-CHD8
 - Dr. Paula Paz Sydiongco
 - Dr. Corazon Sabulao
 - Dr. Antonio Ida
- * PHO- Leyte
 - Dr. Teresa Astorga
 - Dr. Edgardo Daya
 - Technical Team
- * PHIC-8
 - Atty. Jerry S. Ibay, RVP
 - Mr. Rene Limsiaco, MSD Chief
- * JICA & SMACHS-EV Project
 - Ms. Nobuko Yamagishi
 - Ms. Satoko Ishiga
 - Dr. Kunika Wakamatsu
 - JICA-EV Team



Mayors of Leyte are signing their names on the tarpaulin of the National KP strategy to signify their commitment during the 1st Joint ILHZ Board Meeting.

SMACHS-EV Produces 3,159 Graduates in the Community Health Team Training



The graduates with their certificates and CHT home visiting bags during the commencement for CHT training.

On September 1, 2011, DOH-CHD8, PHO of Leyte and CHO of Ormoc successfully completed their Community Health Team (CHT) training with a total of 6 batches in Ormoc and 83 batches in Leyte. 3,159 trained volunteers are now deployed at community level, serving as a health navigator between communities and health facilities, particularly for the pregnant women, mothers and babies.

All the training was successfully implemented through the collaborative efforts of the Regional CHT Core Team, consisting of DOH, PHO, CHO and JICA, and the trainers from the Municipal and District levels which include doctors, nurses and midwives.

The trained volunteers, now called "CHT members," are expected to track pregnant & postpartum women, and to promote health check-ups and delivery at health facilities. This work is supervised and supported by their supervisors as well as the Barangay Kagawad.

CHT members are now there to make sure that every childbirth brings the "happiness" to the family!

Executive Management Committee Meetings in October

For effective and successful implementation, various levels of management committees are organized under the Project, namely: the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC), Regional Management Committee (RMC), Provincial Executive Committee and Ormoc Executive Committee. The JCC, chaired by the Under Secretary of Health, is the top governing body mainly responsible for the approval of the Plan of Operations of the project, among others. These committees regularly hold meetings every 6 months to monitor the progress of implementation and to discuss and resolve project issues.

All committees were able to meet twice this year (2011), the latest of which was in the month of October. One of the main issues and agreements reached in the recent meetings of the committees was on the approval of the modified Project Design Matrix (PDM) and conduct of the training on BEmONC for Midwives. The PDM is the summary of activities the project has to implement to attain its objectives, and by which the project will be evaluated against. Modification on the PDM was necessary to respond to the current needs in project implementation. The issue on the training on BEmONC on the other hand was about the use of the POGS MDG Countdown by

EVRMC plus the Essential Intra-partum Newborn Care (EINC) to train the midwives in the project site.

Some members of the JCC from Manila took the opportunity to visit one of the Project sites to conduct inspection of the BEmONC RHU and observation of the CHT's progress and activities. Together with the Project Team, PHO and CHD8, JCC members visited San Miguel RHU and interacted with the trained BEmONC team as well as with the members of the CHT from Cabatianuhan Catchment in Barangay Lukay.



Dr. Mar Wynn Bello, BIHC-DOH Manila, presiding the 3rd JCC meeting in Tacloban City

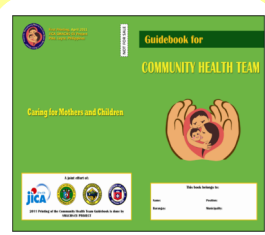
Raising Health Awareness for Behavioral Change

The Project has developed the following materials to promote community awareness on safe motherhood and child care and use of available maternal and child health services.



Project Logo was designed in February 2011.

Other promotional items such as pin badges, stickers, polo shirts and CHT bags were also produced.



CHT Guidebook developed in April 2011 for facilitators and CHT Members.



MC Book translated in both Waray and Visaya



Poster for promotion of Prenatal Visit. Available in both Waray waray and Visaya

JINGLE :

“Health Center, Sigurado Ka”

RADIO DRAMA:

1. Prenatal Visit for Happy Baby
2. Facility-based Delivery for Healthy Delivery
3. Postnatal Care for Happy Family

NOW ON-AIR at the following radio station:

AM STATION:

RADIO DIWA (LEYTE), DYRR (ORMOC)

FM STATION:

IFM (LEYTE), POWER RADIO (ORMOC)

Also available@Youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8DFxX2oEL0>



Upcoming Activities

January to May 2012	BEmONC training for midwives at EVRMC
Feb.-March 2012	Orientation of MNDR
March 2012	Regional CHT Core Team Meeting
May 2012	Regional MNDR
May 2012	Dissemination workshop in EV Study tour of ILHZ

UP CLOSE

Training on BEmONC for Midwives in Leyte

The Project will conduct the training for midwives entitled, "Capacity Enhancement on Maternal and Newborn Care for Midwives" starting mid of January to May of 2012 at the EVRMC. About 120 midwives are targeted as participants of the training with support from the DOH8, PHO and JICA. The training includes skills development on the expanded roles of midwives (insertion of intravenous fluids during emergencies, internal examination during labor and suturing of 1st and 2nd degree lacerations).

What is "MACHI"?

The title of our newsletter "MACHI" has many different meanings including;

- It's a way of greeting friends in India.
- It's also used to address a close friend.
- It means "Town" in Japanese

BUT for this newsletter, it means **MA**-ternal and **CHI**-ld Health!!



SMACHS-EV Project is being implemented in Collaboration with :



Main Office:

Department of Health
Center for Health Development in EV
Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte
Tel/Fax: (053) 323 - 6114
Email: SMACHS.EV@gmail.com

Satellite Office:

Cith Health Office, 2nd Floor, Laboratory Building,
Anubing St., Government Center
Brgy. Cogon, Ormoc City
Tel/Fax: (053) 255 - 7284