ANNUAL REPORT
2008
(April 2008 - March 2009)

Maternal and Child Health Project

Department of Health (DOH)
Biliran Provincial Government
Ifugao Provincial Government
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
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The Department of Health takes on the challenge to champion maternal and child health and win the fight against unnecessary deaths of mothers and newborns by the reduction of maternal mortality ratio by three quarters and under-five mortality by two thirds by 2015 – two of our Millennium Development Goals.

The intricate issues of high maternal mortality ratio and newborn deaths, unmet need for reproductive health services and weak maternal care delivery system, has led the DOH to decide to focus on making pregnancy and childbirth safer. The Strategy is to empower women in decision making on matters related to pregnancy and childbirth while DOH tries to bring quality emergency obstetric and newborn care to facilities nearest their homes. This move ensures that those most in need of quality health care have easy access to such care.

The Department of Health appreciates its Development Partners, among them the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which joined government effort in providing support to the provinces of Biliran and Ifugao. Their implementation of the Maternal and Child Health Project and cooperation in harmonizing this with the national agenda for women and children has helped these provinces attain their goals. In its final year, we look forward to the JICA assistance trying out innovative ways to deliver the MCH package in a cost effective and sustainable manner and ensuring that the MCH project benefits from the maternal newborn child health and nutrition (MNCHN) strategy and the ongoing health sector reforms.

The MDG challenge is tough; its goals, ambitious but the targets are nevertheless attainable with extra-ordinary effort. The health MDGs are issues that we have to face up to. NOW is an excellent opportunity to show that the health system can do much to improve the lives of many, particularly mothers and children, not by expensive high technology tools but by practical and empowering approaches.

To JICA and our LGU Partners, this Annual Report is a documentation of your hard work . . . a reminder of your commitment to care to save lives of mothers and children.

Mabuhay at Maraming Salamat!

MARIO C. VILLAVERDE MD, MPH, MPM, CESO I
Undersecretary of Health
Since its commencement in 2006, the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) project marked a significant achievement in the provinces of Ifugao and Biliran. It has been able to increase the number of facility-based deliveries and increase the capacity of rural health units and skilled birth attendants. The project is also fortunate to have garnered the support and commitment from both national and local government units through policies that strengthen the project outputs and ensure its sustainability.

Equally essential to the project is the formation and strengthening of the women’s health teams, which greatly helped pregnant women give birth in health facilities and have their deliveries attended by qualified skilled birth attendants. In the province of Ifugao, these women’s health teams evolved into the Ayod Community Health Teams, which include the involvement of men and community members in MCH activities.

Now that the project is coming to its final year, our work to improve the well-being of mothers and their children is far from over. Our challenge now is to enhance the sustainability of project gains and improvement of current health practices.

It is our wish that the project’s efforts can be replicated in other provinces in the country. This should remind us of the urgency of our goals to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates, of lending support and encouragement to grassroots initiatives and community efforts, and of pushing for national-level policies that would facilitate more effective implementation of MCH programs at the community level.

The past years of project implementation have been very fruitful and I am proud to note the warm and strong relationships that were formed between Japanese and Filipino counterparts. I extend my earnest appreciation to the Department of Health (DOH) and the Centers for Health Development (CHD) in CAR and Region VIII for their tireless commitment in improving the lives of mothers and children.

Finally, I express my deepest gratitude and sincere admiration to the stakeholders for working so hard to induce change in community health behaviors, particularly towards improved maternal and child health.

Maraming Salamat sa Inyong Lahat!

Norio Matsuda
Chief Representative
Japan International Cooperation Agency
Philippine Office
This project owes its success so far to the health care workers – both from the health care facilities and the communities, the communities themselves who wholeheartedly accepted the project, as well as other institutions and individuals who passionately offer their full commitment to further improve, protect and promote the health of Filipino women and children.

**Department of Health Central Office**
- Secretary of Health Francisco T. Duque III, MD, MSC
- Undersecretary Mario C. Villaverde, MD, MPH, MPM, CESO II
- NCDPC Director Yolanda E. Oliveros, MD, MPH
- The staff of the NCDPC
- The members of the National Joint Coordination Committee

**Ifugao and Biliran**
- Provincial Governors of Ifugao and Biliran
- Municipal Mayors of Aguinaldo, Alfonso Lista and Mayoyao (Ifugao)
- Municipal Mayors of Almeria, Biliran, Culaba, Caibiran, Cabugcayan, Maripipi, Naval and Kawayan (Biliran)
- Provincial Health Officers
- The staff of the Provincial Health Offices of Biliran and Ifugao
- The staff of the Municipal Health Offices of the participating municipalities
- Directors of the Center for Health Development
- The staff of the Center for Health Development: CAR and Region VIII
- PhilHealth

**Development Partners**
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- European Union (EU)
- German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- World Bank (WB)
- Global Fund
- Plan International
List of Acronyms Used

AMADHS  Aguinaldo-Mayoyao-Alfonso Lista District Health System
BEmONC  Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
BHW    Barangay Health Worker
BNS    Barangay Nutrition Scholar
BPH    Biliran Provincial Hospital
CEmONC Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
CMMNC Community Managed Maternal and Newborn Care
CHD    Center for Health Development
DH     District Hospital
DOH    Department of Health
EC     Executive Committee
EmOC   Emergency Obstetric Care
LSS    Life Saving Skills
IACHT  Ifugao Ayod Community Health Team
JCC    Joint Coordination Committee
MCH    Maternal and Child Health
MCP    Maternal Care Package
MHO    Municipal Health Office
MDR    Maternal Death Review
MMR    Maternal Mortality Ratio
NCDPC National Center for Disease Prevention and Control
NMR    Neonatal Mortality Rate
PDM    Project Design Matrix
PHO    Provincial Health Office
PO     Plan of Operation
RHM    Rural Health Midwife
RHU    Rural Health Unit
SBA    Skilled Birth Attendant
TBA    Traditional Birth Attendant
TWG    Technical Working Group
UNFPA  United Nations Population Fund
WHT    Women's Health Team
Introduction

Since the 1970s, Japan’s official development assistance, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has been helping address the perennial need to improve the quality of maternal and child health services and reduce maternal and child mortality in the Philippines.

This is because maternal and child health programs are among the priority health issues that JICA has focused its resources on. The others are: (1) control of infectious diseases, with emphasis on tuberculosis, malaria, schistosomiasis and SARS; (2) local health system strengthening; and (3) lifestyle-related diseases.


Other assistance provided included a grant project for measles control (2002) and medical equipment supply project with the UNFPA from 1996-2003.

The basic policy followed in providing grants or technical assistance to the Philippine health sector focused on “human security.”

JICA’s latest participation in the Philippine health sector is in the Maternal and Child Health Project (2006-2010), a project initiated by the Department of Health based on recommendations of the Project Formulation Study in the Health Sector conducted in September 2004.

The project was envisioned to support the target under the Philippine Millennium Development Goals to reduce the ratio of maternal deaths and decrease the mortality rate among children.

JICA realized early on that achieving these MDGs will only be realistic through the political will of the national and local governments, commitment of health workers and concerted action of people in the communities, non-government organizations and development partners.

This led to the signing on March 16, 2006 of an agreement between the DOH and JICA to provide technical assistance to the Maternal and Child Health projects of Ifugao and Biliran, two of the poorest provinces in the Philippines.
This annual report covers significant developments during the third year of implementation from March 2008 to March 2009.

These include the steps that Biliran and Ifugao have taken to strengthen their maternal and child health programs, specifically the enhancement of MCH services and Emergency Obstetric Care at all levels, as well as the community’s support mechanisms for mothers and newborns.

**Background**

The Philippines has seen high maternal mortality rates over the last decades.

The National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS, 1998) estimated that about 172 mothers die for every 100,000 live births. The UNFPA said in a separate study that in 2000, the record worsened to 200 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births.

Unfortunately, communities have traditionally blamed the death of pregnant women or new mothers on fate, saying that the death was inevitable.

Their death, however, should be seen as anything but typical. Exports said that many of the pregnant women or new mothers died due to the following:

- Delay in deciding to seek medical care;
- Delay in reaching appropriate care; and
- Delay in receiving care at health facilities.

What’s worse, around 17 of 1,000 newborns die within 28 days due to these delays and the severe lack of appropriate newborn care.
Project Design

To respond to these grim conditions, JICA sent Japanese experts to work with the government in enhancing the Project Design Matrix to suit the specific needs of Ifugao and Biliran, the pilot sites of the landmark MCH project.

**OVERALL GOAL**
1. MMR and IMR in the target area are reduced.

**PROJECT PURPOSE**
Capacity of MCH workers to provide quality safe motherhood and newborn care services in the target area is strengthened.

**OUTPUTS**
1. MCH service delivery system is enhanced at all levels.
2. EmOC service delivery is strengthened.
3. System for supporting pregnant mothers and newborns is enhanced.

**OVERALL GOAL**
1. Quality and quantity of MCH services are enhanced nationwide.
2. Organizational capacity to implement effective MCH strategies is strengthened at the national level and in other provinces.

**PROJECT PURPOSE**
Safe motherhood and newborn care services in target area are strengthened.

**OUTPUTS**
1. MCH service delivery system at all levels is enhanced at the primary health level.
2. EmOC service delivery is strengthened.
3. System for supporting pregnant mothers and newborns is enhanced.
4. Management to support SBA is improved.
5. Feedback on lessons learned is included in the national policy.

**OVERALL GOAL**
1. MMR and IMR in the target area are reduced.
2. The approach taken and lessons learned contribute to a national framework.

**PROJECT PURPOSE**
Health and safety of mothers are improved in the target area.

**OUTPUTS**
1. Implementation mechanism and capacity in EmOC are strengthened at the central and regional levels.
2. MCH and EmOC services are strengthened in the target area.
3. Supporting mechanisms for mothers and babies are strengthened in the communities.
4. Management and supportive supervision mechanisms are in place for WHTs.
5. Lessons learned contribute to policy dialogues at the national and provincial levels.
The table below outlines the specific strategies in the achievement of the project outputs according to the revised Project Design Matrix.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Outputs</th>
<th>Level/Targets</th>
<th>Intervention Type</th>
<th>Major Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **OUTPUT 1:** Implementation mechanism and capacity of the central level to enhance Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) at all levels are strengthened | Central/ DOH, CHD and training institution | Capacity building | - Enhance training capacity of EmOC and neonatal care at the central level training institution  
- System formulation for monitoring |
| **OUTPUT 2:** The MCH services and EmOC are strengthened in the project's target areas | Province and municipality/ PHs, DHs, RHUs/BHSs and SBAs working in the medical facilities | Facility development and capacity development of health personnel | - BEmOC training  
- CMMNC training  
- LSS training  
- Provision of medical equipment |
| **OUTPUT 3:** Supporting mechanisms for mothers and babies in the communities are strengthened | Municipality/ SBAs in RHUs and Barangay health volunteers, mothers, and community members | Organization of new system, education and awareness building, community mobilization | - Formulation of WHTs  
- Formulation of multi-sectoral community supporting group for emergency transportation |
| **OUTPUT 4:** Management and supportive mechanisms are in place for WHTs and midwives to improve quality of service and work environment in the project’s target areas | Municipality/ SBAs in RHUs and Barangay health volunteers, and community members | Capacity building through supportive supervision, organization of new system, formulation of financial mechanism for sustainability | - Supportive supervision for SBAs and WHTs  
- Improvement of managerial capacity of RHUs  
- Monthly meetings and Case Conference  
- Maternal Death Review |
| **OUTPUT 5:** Lessons learned from the MCH project implementation contribute to dialogues at the national and provincial levels and MCH policy discussions, and are reflected in MCH policy formulation | Central / MCH Technical Working Group | Policy dialogues/ discussions | - Reactivate MCH TWG  
- Discussion and revision of MCH policy  
- Dissemination of MCH training materials |

Source: Project Mid-term Evaluation Report, October 2007
**Project Areas**

**BILIRAN PROVINCE**

Biliran is an island province located in the Eastern Visayas region, between the islands of Samar and Leyte. It is a fourth class province with a total land area of 55,550 hectares.

The smallest among six Eastern Visayas (Region VIII) provinces, Biliran has eight municipalities: Naval (the capital), Almeria, Culaba, Kawayan, Cabugcayan, Biliran, Caibiran and Maripipi (an island municipality).

**IFUGAO PROVINCE**

Home of the spectacular hand-carved rice terraces, Ifugao is located in northern Luzon, 384 kilometers away from Manila. This third class province lies deep in the Cordillera mountain range.

Landlocked, it is bounded on the west by Benguet, on the north by Mountain Province, on the east by Isabela and on the south by Nueva Vizcaya. Ifugao has 11 municipalities: Lagawe (the capital), Banaue, Kiangan, Lamut, Asipulo, Hungduan, Hingyon, Tinoc, Alfonso Lista, Aguinaldo and Mayoyao.
Project Management

As agreed upon between the DOH and JICA, the project is managed by the Joint Coordination Committee at the central level. It is implemented by the Provincial Executive Committee and Technical Working Group at the provincial level. These committees, at all levels, are composed of Filipino and Japanese counterparts. The detailed composition of each committee is shown below.

Joint Coordination Committee

Members from the Philippine side:
Chairperson: Undersecretary, DOH
Members: • Director of National Center for Disease Prevention and Control (NCDPC)
          • Director of Bureau of International Health Cooperation (BHIC)
          • Director of Bureau of Local Health and Development (BLHC)
          • Provincial Governors of Ifugao and Biliran Province

Members from the Japanese side:
Chief Representative, JICA Philippine Office
Chief Advisor of the Project
Experts

Provincial Executive Committee/ Technical Working Group
Chairperson: Governor
Members: • Vice Governor
          • Provincial Health Officer
          • Chairperson of the Inter-Local Health Zone
          • Sangguniang Panlalawigan Chairperson of the Committee on Health
          • Mayors of the Project Sites
          • Director of Center for Health Development Region
          • Representative from Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
          • Representative from European Commission
          • Representative from PSWDO, PPDO
          • Representative from JICA Philippine Office
          • JICA-MCH Chief Advisor, Experts, Assistant Project Manager
          • Other stakeholders

The Project’s Chief Advisor will provide necessary recommendations and advice on matters pertaining to the implementation of the project and will be assisted by an Assistant Project Manager for each of the two project sites.
## Indicators

The Maternal and Child Health Project was implemented starting March 2006. The table below shows 2005 as benchmark and the major accomplishments based on the Family Health Survey Information System.

### Results of Project Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>IFUGAO</th>
<th>BILIRAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of SBA attended deliveries</td>
<td>54 %</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facility deliveries (hospitals, RHUs, BHSs)</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of pregnant mothers who get antenatal care more than 4 times</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MMR (Philippine MDG5 target to reduce from 209 per 100,000 to 52 per 100,000)</td>
<td>85.2 (1/1,173)</td>
<td>0 (0/1,392)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ifugao total:</td>
<td>53.1 (2/3,768)</td>
<td>Ifugao total:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMR (Philippine MDG4 target to reduce from 57 per 1,000 to 19 per 1,000)</td>
<td>8.5 (10/1,173)</td>
<td>10.0 (14/1,392)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ifugao total:</td>
<td>9.0 (34/3,798)</td>
<td>Ifugao total:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal death rate</td>
<td>5.1 (6/1,173)</td>
<td>5.0 (7/1,392)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Ifugao:* Has totals indicated because project only covers 3 municipalities.

*Biliran:* SBA-attended delivery means facility delivery.
Ifugao

Ifugao is a mountainous province in the Cordillera Administrative Region with scattered villages and incomplete, rough roads that make it difficult for the residents to access vital health facilities.

Despite these conditions, there was a more than 10 percentage point increase in deliveries conducted by skilled birth attendants to 66.7 percent in 2007 from 54 percent in 2005. This was attributed largely to the formation of women's health teams in the Ifugao municipalities of Aguinaldo, Alfonso Lista and Mayoyao where the MCH is being implemented.

There was also increased use of the birthing facilities at the BEmOC hospital, RHUs and BHSs from 19 to 34.4 percent. In Alfonso Lista, the incidence of facility delivery exceeded home delivery in 2008.

The Ifugao provincial government took a major step forward when it issued an executive order forming the province-wide WHT named the Ifugao Ayod (hammock) community health team with incentives to promote safe motherhood programs.

MCP Accreditation with PhilHealth

All 3 RHUs have been accredited with MCP in Ifugao. Six (6) BHS will apply in 2009.

AYOD Community Health Team

The Women's Health Team traces its beginnings to the DOH project on Women's Health and safe Motherhood. The MCH project adopted the concept to strengthen the capability of the local government to deliver quality women's health and safe motherhood services.

The WHT is headed by a midwife stationed at the barangay health center who is assisted by the barangay health worker, barangay nutrition scholar and traditional birth attendants, among others, depending on the community. Supervising the WHT is the municipal health officer.

As of end 2007, project target area of 3 municipalities had 96 teams with 321 members.

However, Ifugao, renowned for its unique culture and world-famous rice terraces, has its own version of the WHT called the Ifugao AYOD Community health team. Ifugao now has 219 teams with 2,500 members.

The community used the term “ayod” to refer to the hammock, which symbolizes the community’s desire to help each other. The Ifugas bank on close community ties to respond to emergency situations, including transporting pregnant women on a hammock so she can get the help she needs.

The “ayod” thus signifies the concept of leaving “health in the hands of the community.” (See Annex 1, "Ayod in the News")
Biliran

Biliran, the smallest province in the Eastern Visayas region, has shown remarkable improvement in its maternal and child health protection system after the province banned the delivery of children in the homes and encouraged births in facilities with the help of skilled birth attendants.

As Table 1 shows, 9 of 10 deliveries in 2008 were handled at the health facilities by skilled birth attendants. Most of the RHUs reported more than 90 percent facility delivery. Moreover, 15 Barangay Health Stations are now functioning as Birthing Centers.

**MCP Accreditation with PhilHealth**

The MCH Project has provided rural health units with the technical training and medical equipment they need to qualify for Maternity Care package accreditation. As a result, all eight rural health units in Biliran were accredited by MCP as of 2007 and 15 BHS were also accredited by MCP.
## Project Activities in 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT OUTPUTS</th>
<th>Department of Health (Central)</th>
<th>Center for Health Development</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **1. Strengthening the implementation mechanism and capacity of the central level to enhance Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) at all levels.** | **Joint Coordination Committee**  
In the presence of Undersecretary Dr. Lazada, the annual JCC meeting was held at DOH to share the achievements of Ifugao and Biliran provinces. During the meeting, the activity report from Ifugao and Biliran were presented by Gov. Baguilat of Ifugao Province and Biliran Provincial Health Officer Dr. Veneracion. Several comments and questions were made by DOH directors to encourage more efforts to promote facility delivery. The annual activity plan was presented by the Chief Advisor. | **Mother and Child Book**  
Each region developed user-friendly versions of the MC Book. Region 8 developed a Cebuano version of the MC Book while CAR region is developing a culture friendly Family Health Diary for distribution to 6 provinces. |
| Establish the central level Joint Coordination Committee (JCC), a mechanism to monitor and manage the MCH project implementation. | **FOURmula One**  
The project implementors attended meetings of the Technical Assistance Coordination Team | **Textbook on Community Managed Maternal and Newborn Care**  
In answer to requests from each region, 4,500 copies of the CMMNC textbook were printed and distributed to each province under Region 8 and CAR. |
| Assist in establishing EmOC monitoring mechanism (preparing checklist, defining the role and responsibility of supervisors). | **Evaluation of training on Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care and Life Saving Skills for midwives**  
Representatives from DOH and Fabella Hospital conducted a post-training monitoring evaluation mission in Ifugao. Forty of 51 BEmONC trainees and 18 of 36 LSS trainees were evaluated. | **CAR**  
**Annual Health Decision Makers Forum**  
Cordillera Administrative Region held its third Decision Makers Forum in August at Baguio City. This is an initiative that will provide a venue for sharing best/good practices on health that other Local Government Units might emulate. AMADHS was selected to present for the second time its best practices, which the communities said contributed to the improvement of the health status of the people. One of the AMADHS MHO shared the contribution of the organized Women’s Health Team and the registration of AMADHS with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This will give them the chance to source funds for health programs/projects outside donor and LGU assistance. |
| Assist in strengthening the EmOC training by providing equipment for Fabella Hospital and reproducing existing standard manuals. | **BEmONC training**  
Conducted training for 8 Ifugao SBAs at Fabella Hospital. | **Happitan di Cordillerans A Ifugao**  
A total of 411 delegates from the different provinces of Cordillera in their unique ethnic attires, together with their governors, mayors, legislators, health staff and employees, gathered at the Don Bosco Auditorium in Lagawe, Ifugao on November 12, 2008 to launch the book *Teaming Up for Safe Motherhood*. In addition to the launching, the Ifugao donors and stakeholders planned the activity as a forum for experience |
| Develop and print training materials for CMMNC Trainers and implement nationwide Training of Trainers: TOT on CMMNC in collaboration with other funding agencies. | **Training in Japan**  
4 midwives from Ifugao and Biliran took part in a 4-week midwifery training in Japan. | |
<p>| Provide Philippine side project counterparts capacity building training in Japan on the MCH program management. | | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th>PROJECT OUTPUTS</th>
<th>Department of Health (Central)</th>
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- Sharing, and integrating the Ifugao culture, inspired by Ifugao and Cordilleran ethnic sounds, music, and colors. It was hoped that this opportunity will encourage other provinces to look into what they could replicate in their own provinces. Thus, it was not just a “launching” but Happitan di Cordillerans Ad Ifugao (an MCH forum of the Cordillerans in Ifugao).

**Region 8**

**Region VIII Health Summit 2008**
The CHD VII organized and conducted the Regional Health Summit with support from the MCH Project in Nov. 2008 at Tacloban City. The DOH Central Office, PHO Staff and officials from Ifugao Province led by Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr., representative from JICA, the Embassy of Japan and other guests witnessed the activity. About 400 stakeholders participated in the:

- Launching of the MCH project publication *Teaming UP for Safe Motherhood*;
- Sharing of best practices from Biliran Province (MCH Program and Inter Local Health Board), Southern Leyte (Inter-Local Health Zone and Health City Initiative), Eastern Samar Province (Peso for Health: A Health Care Financing Scheme); and
- Awarding of LGUs and local health managers.

**Training on Supervisory and Monitoring for the Public Health Nurses**
To strengthen supervision and monitoring systems, CHD VII and the MCH project supported the conduct of the Monitoring and Supervisory Training for Public Health Nurses in May and September, attended by 50 PHNs. This training aimed to enhance the capability of the PHNs to effectively perform their various roles as supervisors of their respective midwives using the monitoring tool formulated by the CHD and MCH project according to BEmONC strategy, Sentrong Sigla and PhilHealth’s Maternity and Newborn Care Package.

*Regional Consultative Meeting with*...
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<th>PROJECT OUTPUTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provincial MCH Coordinators</strong>&lt;br&gt;A meeting was held at CHD VIII to get a consensus on how to enhance the implementation of the Maternal and Child Health Program through the Woman's Health and Safe Motherhood Model of the Department of Health vis-à-vis Formula One Strategy. More than 50 public health managers from PHO, MCH Coordinator, FP Coordinators, Nutrition Coordinator, DOH Representative, and selected MHOs attended.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regional Maternal Death Review</strong>&lt;br&gt;To strengthen the capacity of the skilled birth attendants to provide quality care for expectant mothers and newborns, a 2-day Regional Maternal Death Review (RMDR) was facilitated by the CHD VIII with more than 40 public health managers. Discussions included revisiting the strategy on conducting the MDR at the local level and its status, updates on public health programs (MCH, Family Planning and Breastfeeding), FHSIS, and Clinical Case Conference for Midwives.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regional Development Partners’ Meeting</strong>&lt;br&gt;To strengthen coordination among the DOH-CHD VIII, PHOs in Region VIII, Provincial DOH-Reps, Representatives from the MHOs and other development partners (World Vision, GTZ, Plan Philippines and Spanish Red Cross), conducted regular meeting in the regions.</td>
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*Region 8 Health Summit*

*Happitan di Cordillera ad Ifugao*
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<tr>
<th>PROJECT OUTPUTS</th>
<th>IFUGAO</th>
<th>BILIRAN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.</strong> The MCH services and EmOC are strengthened in the project target areas.</td>
<td><strong>Provincial Executive Committee and Technical Working Group Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>Provincial Executive Committee and Technical Working Group Meeting</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.1.</strong> Conduct baseline survey of current MCH situation in the project target areas.</td>
<td>**1. <strong>Project accomplishment report for 2007</strong></td>
<td>Usec. Dr. David Lozada and NCDPC Director Dr. Yolanda Oliveros of DOH and JICA Chief Representative Norio Matsuda have joined the ExeCom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.2.</strong> Establish project Executive Committees (EC) and Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to monitor project implementation and to conduct meetings to discuss project implementation issues.</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1. MCH Project accomplishments and the plan of activities for 2008</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.3.</strong> Provide BEmOC trainings for all SBAs working in district hospitals and RHUs in the project target areas.</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>a.</strong> Discussion of PIPH to ensure that MCH Project is strategically planned within the framework of investment and sustainability;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.4.</strong> Provide CMMNC trainings for all SBAs.</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>b.</strong> Review the major issues relative to the implementation of the project and recommend solutions to be undertaken.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2.5.</strong> Provide Life Saving Skills trainings for midwives in BHSs in the project target areas.</td>
<td><strong>2.</strong> MCH Project plan of activities for 2008</td>
<td>The TWG, through its regular monthly meeting, carefully provides inputs and recommendations to the Executive Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.6.</strong> Assist in the upgrading of RHUs by providing equipment and trainings towards PhilHealth Insurance Cooperation accreditation for the Maternity Care Package, which will benefit the poor in the project area.</td>
<td><strong>a.</strong> Equip 6 BHSs of AMADHS to become birthing facilities</td>
<td><strong>Turnover of Medical Equipment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.7.</strong> Assist some remote BHSs to function as birthing stations.</td>
<td><strong>b.</strong> Assist RHUs in MCP accreditation</td>
<td>To respond to the need to bring birthing services to the barangay level in each municipality of Biliran province while implementing the local mandate on full facility-based birth deliveries, the MCH project provided the medical equipment needed in BHSs designated as birthing centers.</td>
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<td><strong>2.8.</strong> Assist Mayoyao DH to be upgraded to CEmOC facility and Biliran PH to be 3rd level hospital.</td>
<td><strong>c.</strong> Support Ayod Community Health Teams</td>
<td><strong>Provincial MCH Project Implementation Review</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Turnover of Medical Equipment**
To respond to the need to bring birthing services to the barangay level in each municipality, the MCH project provided all needed medical equipment to BHS which were selected by facility mapping of DOH to function as birthing facilities.

**Life-Saving Skills Training for Rural Health Midwives**
To enhance the skills of rural health midwives in recognizing and responding to life-threatening obstetrical situations in their respective areas, a 6-day
**PROJECT OUTPUTS** | **IFUGAO** | **BILIRAN**
--- | --- | ---
Life-Savings Skills (LSS) Training was conducted at Fabella Memorial Hospital with 15 participants. | implementors such as recurring home-based deliveries, lack of personnel, lack of monitoring tools, lack supervisory skills of midwives. |
**Launching of the Search for the Most Healthy Barangay in Alfonso Lista municipality**<br>As part of localized integrated activities in the municipality of Alfonso Lista for improvement of the health status of the people, not only focusing on MCH but also including other diseases that will also affect the health of the mother and child, indicators on MCH, malaria, nutrition and others were included as a measure to rate the different barangays.<br>To motivate the barangays to really work towards a healthy community, P300,000 was allocated by the municipal government for awards to be used for development projects. | **Prenatal Care Services Training for SBAs**<br>To enhance the knowledge and skills of SBAs in providing quality health care, the MCH project supported the conduct of two 4-day training on strengthening prenatal care services at the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC). Facilitated by members of the Region VIII Philippine OB-Gyne Society, it was attended by 70 SBAs. |
**Launching of the Ifugao Ayod Community Health Team**<br>June 2008 was a milestone in Ifugao’s history for on this day, 1,200 people from all over the province and dignitaries from national and international offices witnessed the launching of the province’s expanded and localized WHT – the Ifugao Ayod Community Health Team. Officials and representatives from the different funding agencies and other stakeholders pledged their commitment to support this initiative. (See attached newspaper clipping in Annex 1.) | **Training on Facilitating Parents Class for WHTs**<br>Spearheaded by Biliran PHO, the training on Facilitating Parent’s Class was provided to all 700 members of WHT from the 132 barangays of Biliran Province from August to December 2008. The goal was to provide adequate knowledge and skills to teach expectant/new mothers and their husbands on basic home-based care management and how to access services from the SBAs at the health facility. |
**Active Males Movement Against Violence and for Ayod Writeshop and TOT**<br>The Ayod was reorganized to include male members. This is in recognition of the role that males play in the health and social programs/activities at the community level. A series of trainings/capability-building sessions were conducted to empower men and women and make them contribute to the reduction of child and maternal mortality. | **Inter-Municipal WHT Annual Convention**<br>This is an annual convention of WHTs to share learnings, practices and experiences, while carrying out their tasks and responsibilities as core support group at the community level. Together with the Provincial Governor and Municipal Mayors, more than 400 members of WHTs from the municipalities of Caibiran, Cabucgayan and Culaba convened at the Caibiran Gymnasium, while more than 800 WHT members from the municipalities of Naval, Biliran, Almeria, Kawayan and Maripipi convened at the Naval Gymnasium. The PHO, MHO and MCH project staff witnessed the event. |
**Provincial Donors’ Meeting**<br>A regular forum with the representatives from funding agencies together with | **Assessment of BHSs for Maternity Care Package (MCP) accreditation with PhilHealth**<br>Aiming to bring birthing services at
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT OUTPUTS</th>
<th>IFUGAO</th>
<th>BILIRAN</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>other provincial stakeholders (PHTL, PHO, and COH) was conducted with the Governor as convenor. This gave the local consultants the opportunity to harmonize the activities/deliverables of each project. Schedules were synchronized and possible integration on funding was made to maximize the resources to make the PIPH truly work. Each representative from the EC, UNFPA, ECCD, JICA-MCH, and Global Fund Malaria sponsors the meeting on a scheduled basis. To have a complete picture of PIPH implementation, the governor requested the local consultants not only to just give financial assistance but also go beyond their TOR to give technical assistance to the Provincial Health Office as it has limited manpower, and also to the municipalities since the technical expertise of each consultant is badly needed.</td>
<td>the barangay level, the PHO assisted Regional PhilHealth to conduct assessment on Sept. 2008 to all 15 BHS. The improvement of birthing stations and upgrading of BHSs were supported by the joint effort of all LGUs. MCH project provided all the required birthing equipment.</td>
<td>Strategic Planning-Workshop for Biliran Provincial Hospital To enhance quality care for the expectant/new mothers and newborns at the hospital level, the CHD VIII responded to the request of GTZ and the MCH project for system improvement and organizational diagnostic through the conduct of Strategic Planning Workshop with 20 health managers of the Biliran Provincial Hospital, including the support units. Follow-up meetings and assessment were done which resulted the strengthening of the hospital Continuing Quality Improvement and Process Flow posted in each unit using the framework of the DOH.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### PROJECT OUTPUTS

#### Supporting mechanisms for mothers and babies are strengthened in the community.

3.1 Organize Women’s Health Teams to improve community participation through birth preparedness in the community, conduct of WHT trainings, and carrying out of WHT activities in their communities (home visits, counseling, filling out pregnancy tracking records, conducting mothers’ class, and conducting monthly meetings at BHSs).

3.2 Assist in establishing community-based multi-sectoral group to assist in the needs of mothers.

### IFUGAO

**Maternal Death Review in Alfonso Lista**

After 2 years of no maternal deaths in the project areas, one occurred on January 14, 2009. Ironically, the one who died was a Barangay Health Worker and a member of the Ayod Community Health Team. Since the RHU staff was already empowered, an immediate review of the death was done on February 4, 2009 together with the staff from the Ifugao Provincial Health Office and the JICA-MCH. Midwifery students from the Ifugao State College of Agriculture were allowed to attend the review so they could learn more and at the same time be advocates for facility-based delivery.

### BILIRAN

**Continuing Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Review**

To improve quality health care services for expectant mothers and newborns, a continuing Maternal and Neonatal Death Review was conducted both at the municipal (Cabucgayan, Caibiran and Naval) and hospital (with concerned MHO have participated) levels last July 2008 and November 2008, respectively. Discussions included:

- Clinical cause of maternal and neonatal deaths;
- Health facility systems, set-up and personnel;
- Socio-economic, cultural and demographic factors;
- Formulation of preventive plans

Moreover, the team at the provincial level gathered in February 2009 to review all maternal deaths in the province that occurred from June 2008 to January 2009, including the status of the implementation of the formulated preventive plans of the Municipal and Hospital Maternal/Neonatal Death Review.

**Consultative-Workshop on Barangay Health Emergency Preparedness and Readiness**

In collaboration with the Municipal Office of the Local Government Operations Officer and Municipal Social Welfare Office, the PHO conducted the 2-day Consultative-Workshop on Health preparedness and readiness from July to October 2008. The goal was to establish a support system mechanism for all expectant and new mothers and their newborn at the 132 barangays for on-time response and preventive care. The implementation of their plan will be closely monitored by the PHO, Municipal Interior and Local Government Office and the Municipal Social Welfare Office. The activity was participated in by the Barangay Captain, Brgy. Kagawad on Health, Brgy. Kagawad for Women and Children, Kagawad on Appropriation, WHT members and local PO/NGOs.
MCH Programs Consultative Forum with Rural Health Midwives
The 40 rural health midwives were gathered by the PHO on Nov. 24, 2008 to determine and discuss their issues and concerns as front liners of MCH project implementation at the local level. This resulted in a commitment among the RHMs and Public Health Managers to work towards zero maternal deaths.

Training on Burod-Tabang-Burod (Pregnant-Helping-Pregnant) Mechanism
Designed to strengthen the involvement of the community members while relinquishing the responsibility for providing appropriate support to all expectant mothers and newborns, training on Burod-Tabang-Burod (Pregnant-helping-Pregnant) Mechanism was provided to 1,100 members of the WHT in January and February 2009.

The training was envisioned to effectively mobilize and transform the target clients (Pregnant and postpartum women) into trainers and educators to help their fellow expectant mothers and understand the essence of accessing appropriate health care services from the facility.
### Maternal & Child Health Project

#### MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORTIVE SUPERVISION MECHANISMS

Management and supportive supervision mechanisms are in place for WHTs in order to improve the quality of care and their work environment in the project target areas.

4.1 Conduct supportive supervision to WHT and SBA by PHO/MHO offices.

4.2 Conduct regular meetings among RHU staff.

4.3 Conduct regular meetings with WHTs and rural health midwives.

4.4 Conduct Maternal Death Review and case conference by PHO, RHUs and SBAs.

#### IFUGAO

**Meetings with RHU staff, AMADHS/TWG, WHTs**

After providing all the inputs (equipment, capability, etc.), it became possible to have close coordination/consultations among community members. This provided a venue for threshing out issues involving people’s preference to give birth at home rather than in a facility.

It was agreed that there was still a need to conduct parent’s classes at the community and this could be included in the Barangay Development Plan.

In the Inter Local Health Zone meetings, the members of the health team were encouraged to exert effort to motivate mothers to deliver at the facility or at least call for a Skilled Birth Attendant during their delivery if they really wanted to deliver at home.

It was recognized that much effort has to be done to convince mothers/community people to recognize the advantages of having delivery at the facility. Thus, it was a part of the ILHZ plan to consider making legislations to regulate the TBAs attending to deliveries at home and doing it alone.

During these meetings, it was found out that some midwives were keeping the Mother and Child Book in their BHSs for fear that the mothers will forget to bring it with them during the next prenatal or immunization visit. This practice was corrected and parents/mothers were instead encouraged to bring it along every time they visit any facility, since this was an important record and would also act as a referral record.

The midwives and other RHU staff were urged to facilitate the monthly WHT/IACT meetings and assist the Barangay Captain, since they have technical knowledge on health.

#### BILIRAN

**Series of meetings and planning for the conduct of Monitoring and Supervisory Training**

A series of discussions and meetings were done in 2008 with the Training and MCH units of CHD VIII for strengthening the monitoring and supervision skills of frontliners. A tool was developed to ensure quality service delivery.

**Advocacy for the Provision of Monetary Benefits**

To ensure the continued implementation of BEmONC and to make services available anytime, the province provided additional benefits through implementation of the Magna Carta for Public Health Workers.

A portion of the Capitation Fund was also used to provide incentives to WHT members.

During a Provincial EC meeting, it was announced that the local chief executives would help improve the morale of the health service providers by providing additional incentives. Ranging from 2% to 5% for this year, they believe that these incentives could be translated by the service providers into a higher level of performance.

Aside from the honorarium from the barangay to provincial levels, the members of the WHT now enjoy the following benefits:

- 30% from the birthing facility’s User’s Fee;
- 15% from the Provincial Capitation Fund; and
- Free hospitalization, extending to their direct family members.

#### Ifugao Ayod Community Health Team Roll Out Trainings

As part of the commitment of the MCH project to make the IACHT functional, the project funded the re-roll out trainings to the 63 IACHT teams in AMADHS.

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## PROGRESS REPORTS

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<th>IFUGAO</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5.1</strong> Reactivate the MCH Technical Working Group (TWG).</td>
<td><strong>5.1 Reactivate the MCH Technical Working Group (TWG).</strong> Biliran province shared its best practices and experiences during the National Convention of Provincial and City Nutrition Officers in November. Specifically, 260 delegates benefitted from the sharing of SBAs’ and WHTs’ role in educating and enhancing the capability of expectant mothers and their families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.2</strong> Participate in MCH TWG meetings to share the information about the project and to discuss policy issues that came out from the project’s implementation.</td>
<td><strong>Inception Workshops at Biliran Province</strong> The MCH program of Biliran Province, among the most documented and considered one of the best implemented programs nationwide, was heavily promoted by the DOH. As a result, several visitors conducted their inception workshop for possible replication in their respective areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5.3</strong> Provide MCH training materials nationwide through the MCH TWG.</td>
<td><strong>Sorsogon, Bicol region</strong> (October 2008): More than 20 Local Chief Executives and Public Health Managers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Inception Workshop in Ifugao Province

In January 2009, 40 participants from Biliran Province visited Ifugao project sites for 4 days. Participants learned first hand the difficulty of providing health service delivery to “mountains and hills”.

### Inception Workshops at Biliran Province

The MCH program of Biliran Province, among the most documented and considered one of the best implemented programs nationwide, was heavily promoted by the DOH. As a result, several visitors conducted their inception workshop for possible replication in their respective areas.

- Sorsogon, Bicol region (October 2008): More than 20 Local Chief Executives and Public Health Managers
- Doctors to the Barrio (DTTB) Technical Exchange Program (October 2008): More than 45 doctors

### 6th National Convention on Newborn Screening

The MCH project sponsored one delegate from the Biliran Provincial Hospital to the convention organized by the Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines (NBS), in cooperation with the Newborn Screening Reference Center (Manila) and Phil. Pediatric Society – North Central Mindanao Chapter. Held on October 7, 2008, the convention was attended by over 700 participants nationwide.

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**Ayod roll-out training in Mayoyao, Ifugao**
Plans for 2009

According to the Provincial Health Investment Plan (PHIP), the following steps need to be taken to further strengthen and support the initiatives of Biliran and Ifugao:

**Support CHD and PHO to:**

- Create and implement a functional monitoring and supervision system at the local level;
- Strengthen quality assurance of MCH related services;
- Develop strong linkages among partner agencies, barangay leaders, community providers and service agencies, and families to facilitate communication, care coordination, and inter-family support; and
- Evaluation of project activities

Biliran MCH implementors and stakeholders during their visit to Ifugao
The Project holds its offices at:

**JICA-MCH Project Central Office**
Building 14, NCDPC, Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Office number: (632) 7438301 loc 1345
Telefax: (632) 339-2361

Chief Advisor: Izumi Murakami  
Health Program Coordinator: Nobuko Yamagishi  
Project Coordinator: Michiru Suda  
Secretary: Rose Banghallan

**Biliran Project Office**
Biliran Provincial Hospital
Castin St., Naval, Biliran
Mobile: 0920-840-7946

Assistant Project Manager: Roland Eric Macanas  
Driver: Odelon Abanilla

**Ifugao Project Office**
Provincial Health Office
Lagawe, Ifugao
Mobile: 0906-960-9428

Assistant Project Manager: Marcelyn Dulnuan  
Secretary: Daisy Dulnuan  
Driver: Stephen Nadyahan,
Annex 1

Newspaper Article on Ifugao Ayod Community Health Team

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2008

ACROSS THE NATION

INQUIRER
Northern Luzon

In Ifugao, lowly hammock saves lives

By Jerome Damusco
Contributor

C

ELV BLANZA WOULD PROBABLY not be alive today if not for the
ayod, an indigenous means of transporting the sick in Ifugao.

On July 10 last year, the 16-year-old Blanza went in labor for hours with her sec-
ond child, prompting her family to bring her to the nearest hospital, more than three
hours away.

Since the village had no available emer-
gency vehicle, Blanza's husband waited gen-
erously for the arrival of the only bus for
them there, but to no avail.

Since she was already in severe pain, her relatives decided to bring her to the hospi-
tal on a hammock or the ayod.

Along the way, they happened to come
cross a development agency vehicle,
which was on its way to a project site. After
another two hours of traveling, Blanza was
admitted to a hospital where she finally
gave birth.

Her case is repeated almost every day in
Ifugao, where the mountainous terrain,
poor road conditions and lack of access to
transportation continue to prevent people
from reaching health facilities in times of
emergency.

Coming to the rescue of the Blanzas is the
ayod—a large blanket tied in wooden or
bamboo poles and carried by villagers over
mountain trails that no vehicle can traverse.

Make-shift 'ambulance'

Long been used in Ifugao to transport the
sick and those who can no longer walk, this
make-shift "ambulance" is managed by male rel-
atives (with others waiting along the way).

For many Ifugais who live high up, the
ayod is not just an option for the only means of transport available.

Recognizing the ayod's invaluable role in
the health of Ifugao, the provincial gov-
ernment honored the once lowly hammock
by lending its name to the province's first
community health program.

Provincial Executive Order No. 22 provides for the establishment of theayod Community
Health Teams (ACHT), which would handle health-related services at the barangay level.

"Health is not just for women and mem-
bers, but for men and fathers as well, the
concept of ayod is for men and women working together," said Baguilat.

The establishment of a community-based
health team is much needed in a country where maternal and infant mortality rates among the
highest in Southern Asia and where diseases like malnutrition and malaria, long prevalent in
other countries, still claim lives.

With 11 mothers and 200 children dying
every day while giving birth or being born,
the Philippines, according to the World
Health Organization, is one of its priority
countries where it comes to reduction of
maternal and neonatal deaths.

The ACHT is an integral part of the Ifu-
gao's maternal and child health (MCH) pro-
ject, a novel approach in curative mater-
nal and neonatal services and the promotion of
safe motherhood and delivery in health facili-
ties or trained health workers.

Supported by the Japan International
Cooperation Agency, the MCH project is now in its second year of implementation
in Ifugao and will cover the entire province.

The ACHT has 109 teams with 2,860 members.

Ed. No. 22 not only provides a name and
an identity but a bigger role to the local com-
munity health teams, it also establishes a mechanism to the form of Provincial Health
Assurance Corp to address the needs of the
community.

"My dream for the agdo is not just for it to be
a word but a functional health team, and the
provincial government will join in its pro-
gress and projects," Baguilat said.
Strengthening Maternal and Child Health Care Programs

KEY IMPLEMENTATION STEPS:

STEP 1:
Recognizing the problem and identifying options given available resources

STEP 2:
Implementing strategies that are doable and realistic
2.1. Formulation of policies to improve MCH implementation
2.2 Organizing Community/Women’s Health Team (WHT) as advocates for MCH
2.3 Improving the capacities of Health Personnel
2.4 Ensuring the availability of medicines, equipment and supplies for Facility-based delivery

STEP 3:
Sustaining quality Maternal and Child Care by increasing financial resources and providing incentives
3.1. Providing incentives to BHWs and RHU staff
3.2 Acquiring PhilHealth Maternity Care Package (MCP) Accreditation
3.3 Increasing the number of PhilHealth indigent enrollees
3.4 Implementing user’s fees and imposing penalties and incentives

STEP 4:
Monitoring and Evaluation
4.1. Pregnancy Tracking Reporting
4.2 Monthly meetings
Annex 3
Cover of MCH Book “Teaming Up for Safe Motherhood”
Life Saving Skills Training for Midwife

On 55, 08, 2 batches of LSS training was conducted by Fa- bella hospital to 14 midwives from Biliran Province and 19 midwives from Ifugao province. Each midwife has to: conduct 16 internal examinations, 5 laceration repairs, and 10 IV inser- tions to fulfill the graduate re- quirements. From this training, all the permanent employee of each province had completed skills training. Biliran has 15 Barangay Health Stations to be birthing station and ifugao has 9.

Launching of Ifugao AYOD (hammock) Community Health Team
(former Woman’s Health Team)

Launching of AYOD has conducted by Ifugao Province on Jun, 08 with 2550 renewed AYOD members from 11 munici- palities. Same time, representa- tives from DOH, Population Council, JICA, Embassy of Japan, WHO, UN- FPA, Global fund of Malaria, EU are gathered beside Provincial Governor and Municipal mayors.

Ifugao Province issued Executive Or- ders 19 and 22 mandating the organi- zation of Community Health Teams in each Barangay throughout the province. In line with the provinces’ culture preser- vation thrust, these teams shall be know as Ifugao AYOD Community Health Teams. AYOD refers to the hammock used to carry patients. Male participation is highly encouraged. Being Community based, the AYOD are envisioned to evolve into da- italy Community Health organizations assuming expanded task and func- tion. Aside from maternal and Child health concerns, AYOD shall assume other health tasks such as: community health educations, promotions, malaria preven- tions, reproductive health gender issues. Ifugao Province commits itself to the development of the AYOD into truly dynamic group.

Equipment donated to Ifugao and Biliran

2008 batch of equipment to BHSs, RHUs and Provincial Hospital were turned-over to Ifugao and Biliran. Medical equipments are for upgrading Barangay Health Station to enable them to function as birthing stations. Equipment are: delivery tables, generators, suction machines, baby weighing schemes, equipment cabinets, BP apparatus, etc.

Municipality Emergency Pre- paredness Meeting at Biliran

All of the Woman’s Health Teams were actively conducting their safe mother- hood promotion activities in all munici- palities covered by the project. Addi- tion to WHT, Municipality now make emergency preparedness systems with in municipality to support community

Project Monitoring by DOH

On Sep, 08, Ms. Recidora, in-charge of MCH Program of National Center for Disease Prevention and Ms. Men- doza of Bureau of International Coop- eration visited Biliran Province to observe project activities. Specially, they interviewed members of Woman’s Health Team to know their roles to promote facility deliveries. In Biliran, each WHT team makes initiatives from RHUs and medical cares are free in RHU and Provincial Hospi- tal.
Launching of “Teaming Up for Safe Motherhood”

On Nov. 08, MCH Project Process Documentation Book “Teaming Up for Safe Motherhood, Biliran and Ifugao Experience” has been launched for Region CAR and Region 8. Ifugao hosted CAR Region’s launch ceremony. Hon. Gov. Dialgo of Mountain Province, Hon. Gov. Diasen of Kalinga Province, Hon. Gov. Baguillat of Ifugao Province attended with other 500 participants from 6 different province with their traditional outfits. 6 Biliran delegates were also attended. In Region 8, Center for Health Development hosted launched at Tugbok City. Around 400 participants gathered from 6 provinces. This book launching conducted with Regional awarding ceremony for “Good Practice” of health programs. Almeria Municipality of Biliran Province has selected to the best performance awards. Teaming Up book is to disseminate 2 years Project experiences while implementing Safe Motherhood programs in Ifugao and Biliran. Both Province has very unique achievements and they reduced Maternal and Child mortality.

Monitoring of Post BEmONC and LSS Training

On November 08, the BEmOC monitoring team, composed of Dr. Tan, Dr. Andal, Dr. Mirano and Dr. Caluag of Fabella Hospital and Izumi Murakami of JICA-MCH, visited Ifugao to look into the EmOC system of the province and monitor BEmOC and Life Saving Skills training participants. The team observed both the technical and management side of the program. Recommendations made and presented to Provincial Health Office.

Biliran Province Inception visit to Ifugao

On Jan. 2009, total of 40 participants from Biliran Province visited Ifugao Project sites for 4 days. Along with long vehicle ride, participants experienced difficulty of health service delivery to “mountains and hills”.

Executive Committee for Provincial Project Management

Provincial Executive Committee has been held on August 03 at each province. In Ifugao, 20 members from 3 Province, CHD/CAR and 3 municipality attended. While at Biliran, Under Secretary Dr. Lozada, Project Director Dr. Oliveros from DOH Central, Regional Director of DOH VIII Dr. Baluma, JICA Country Representative Mr. Matsuoka and 40 others attended. In the meeting, Agendas were 1. Presentation of status of the MCH Project, 2. Accomplishments and 3. Comments. When project achievements of increasing 6% of facility delivery from 2005 to 86.5% in 2008 at Biliran province presented, Dr. Oliveros expressed it as “Biliran Magic”.

JICA Country Representative visited Ameira Rural Health Unit to observe implementing more than 99% of facility delivery. Dr. Garisao has been trained in Japan for MCH service delivery. Ameira RHU perform more than 50 deliveries a month with 24 hours of service. Municipality also support operations and built new MCH Center beside RHU.

Maternal Death Review in Ifugao

On Jan. 09, one maternal death happened at Alfonso Lista Municipality in Ifugao. This municipality has been promoting facility delivery and number of delivery reached up to 190 in 2008. A mother of 5 children dead of post partum hemorrhage at home. She was member of AYOD Community Health Team and she, herself was a village health worker. All related personal had shocked with the fact that health promoter could not perform what they suppose to teach to community people. Behavior change is not easy task. This maternal death shocked province and in the review, every one of participants promised not let it happened again.

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<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
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<th>Biliran</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>% of Facility deliveries</td>
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Department of Health (DOH)
Biliran Provincial Government
Ifugao Provincial Government
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)