



The Project of Strengthening of Local Health System in the Province of Benguet



Welcome to the 2nd newsletter published for the Project of Strengthening of Local Health System in the Province of Benguet! This newsletter has been prepared to share our activities implemented over the last 6 months.

Health Workers Trained on IMCI

A total of sixty three (63) health workers composed of doctors, nurses, midwives and program coordinators from the different municipalities, hospitals, and provincial health office of the province of Benguet were trained on the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI). IMCI training is one of the trainings necessary for Sentrong Sigla Level 1 (Phase 2) certification of RHUs, thus this training was conducted as a priority activity of the project.

IMCI is a strategy or approach which addresses the overall health of a child less than five years old. It is a package of health services which includes both preventive and curative interventions.



Assessing a sick child during the clinical session at Baguio General Hospital

The health workers were equipped with the knowledge, attitude and skills on the integrated approach of managing childhood illnesses among children less than five years old. Common illnesses affecting children are Pneumonia, Diarrhea, Dengue hemorrhagic fever, Measles and Malnutrition. Preventive interventions include immunizations, nutrition counseling, breastfeeding, deworming and Vitamin A supplementation.

This training of the frontline health workers is necessary to lessen the morbidity and mortality of childhood illnesses.

-Dr. Norma C Pacalso (PHO Training Officer)

PhilHealth Resumes CEMAP in Benguet

The PhilHealth Regional Office - CAR through its Benguet Service Office has resumed its Community Extended Membership Assistance Project (CEMAP) in the various municipalities in Benguet starting January of this year.

Through the financial assistance from the project and the technical assistance of PhilHealth staff, PhilHealth's services have been made accessible to the people of Benguet since members are now able to visit CEMAP Desks which are set-up on a regular schedule in their municipalities. Through these desks, members may be clarified on their queries on PhilHealth membership registration and premium payment as well as other National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) concerns.



Ms. Marilyn Dizon, Market Specialist at Benguet Service Office from PhilHealth is actively promoting the enrollment

JICA has agreed to fund the activity until March 2007. The CEMAP's primary objectives are to increase Individually Paying Program and Sponsored Program enrolment in the Province. Mr. Shuji Noguchi, Team Leader of the project, and Ms. Elvira C. Ver, PhilHealth-CAR Assistant Vice President, have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the CEMAP's implementation. Within the first month of implementation, around 74 new Individually Paying members were registered while surveying of an additional 2,002 families for enrolment under the Sponsored Program has started. - Ms. Marah Alagon (PHI C)

Sharing and Learning Together: Study Tour in Southern Leyte

On February 5-9, 2007, some members of the Technical working group (2 PHOs, 8MHO, 4 COHs, DOH-rep.) with 4 JICA experts went to Southern Leyte to gather learnings and insights in the light of their replicability and actual application in the Benguet ILHZs. Specifically visited was the Pacific ILHZ composed of 6 component RHUs, 1 community hospital and 1 District hospital.

The participants observed a lot of initiatives done by the people of Southern Leyte at all levels (community, municipal, provincial) amidst various challenges from nature to man-made circumstances, some of which are also being practiced in our Province.

However, in the context of Inter-Local Health Zone, what is specifically being implemented in their ILHZ which is not present in the Benguet ILHZ is the implementation of an ILHZ - COMMON HEALTH TRUST FUND (CHTF). It is however good to note that some of the Benguet ILHZ opted to do this before but could not have a concrete basis or study to supersede existing laws governing the disbursement of government funds. Could this be the SOLUTION?



Not only "Lakbay", this is the real "Lakbay Aral!"

Better understanding of the concepts of the CHTF was facilitated by the Inception Workshop "Replication Peer to peer Learning" conducted by the key people involved in the Pacific Inter Local Health Zone - CHTF. It provided the mechanism for the ILHZs to pool and disburse funds in support of ILHZ priority activities.

-Dr. Mercy Calpito (DoHRep of CHD-CAR)



Dr. Mercy Calpito

*Common problems mean...
Common solution!
Our LGUs are not alone...
Why re-invent the wheel?*

Equipment Procurement for the Better Health Service Delivery

A simple turn-over ceremony was conducted at the Provincial Health Office on February 12, 2007. The Hon. Borrromeo P. Melchor, Governor of Benguet Province turned over various equipments to the Municipal officials, witnessed by their Municipal Health Officers, and to the Chiefs of Hospitals in Benguet. A total of 39 various equipments were procured by JICA and delivered to the Provincial Office from December 2006 to early February 2007. Some more equipments are expected to be delivered at the PHO soon.



Turn-over Ceremony at PHO office

Prioritization of equipments were based on the requirements of the DOH for Rural Health Units to be certified as Sentrong Sigla (SS) Phase II and to be accredited by PhilHealth for all the benefit packages such as Out-patient Benefit Package (OPB), TB-DOTS, and Maternal Care Package (MCP). Equipments procured for hospitals were likewise based on the requirements of DOH for hospital Licensure and Phil-health accreditation.

The provision of equipments to the Rural Health Units of the thirteen (13) municipalities and six (6) hospitals in Benguet Province is one of the activities planned and implemented during the first year of the project.

However, provision of equipment alone will not guarantee the delivery of quality health services. Quality health service requires capable, committed and adequate manpower as well as well-maintained facility and equipment plus, of course, the availability of needed logistics. Will we be able to attain our goal? Why not? So long as all stakeholders join hands and work together towards a common goal, I believe we can! Dr. Esteban Piok (PHO)

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