



development academy of the philippines

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CIP/4045/08/06/579

Sustainable Human Development Program (SHDP)

(Center)

[2016] PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

I. Project Information

Project Code:	HDRFT
Project Title:	Midwife Certification Program
Project Start	December 1, 2014
Project End	March 30, 2017
Project Price	Php 2,000,000.00
Client/Organization	Department of Health – Health Human Resource Development Bureau

II. Project Team

Project Manager	Melanie Jallorina-Tejor
Project Team Member/s	Diane Paola Bool RL Jerlyn Oliva
Supervising Fellow/ Project Director	Dorothea C. Boy-Navarro
Consultants/ Resource Persons	Rosemarie Herrera Lourdes Risa Yapchiongco

III. Project Details

Project Description	<p>The overarching goals of the health sector are better health outcomes, a more responsive health system and a reduction of health inequities between the rich and poor families through equitable healthcare financing as identified by the World Health Organization (WHO). The efforts of the current administration are expressed in the Aquino Health Agenda, which sets three (3) strategic thrusts to achieve Kalusugan Pangkalahatan (KP) or Universal Health Care (UHC) towards the attainment of health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).</p> <p>While the country is on target for most of the eight (8) MDGs, it lags behind in terms of achieving Goal 4 (Reduce Child Mortality) and Goal 5 (Improve Maternal Health). This remains a great challenge for the country to redouble its efforts to achieve its desired targets on maternal and child mortalities as the year for attaining the MDGs is fast approaching. Responding to this challenge, the Department of Health (DOH) issued Administrative Order no. 2008-0029, "Implementing Health Reforms for Rapid Reduction of Maternal and Neonatal Mortality", better known as the MNCHN Strategy, which seeks to address the three sources of maternal and neonatal mortalities: unintended pregnancies, uncared pregnancies and poorly attended deliveries. MNCHN is the KEY DRIVER for the urgent integration of local health systems around serving the client segment of women, mothers, infants and children.</p> <p>Midwives play a pivotal role in the MNCHN strategy as the scope of their practice includes the entire range of services related to MNCHN, which are critical to health outcomes of mothers, newborns and children. Their training, skills and expertise were particularly honed for the care of women throughout the continuum of their reproductive ages – from their pre-, adolescent, or inter-pregnancy years, during pregnancy, during normal deliveries up to the immediate post-partum, including care of newborns. They also bridge the gap between health needs and health services in far-flung areas, including the geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. Considered as the</p>
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	<p>frontline health professionals, they are the first point of contact by the Filipino populace at the primary care level, providing services on a daily basis to answer most of the public health needs, even if they are just trained to provide maternal and child care services.</p> <p>Despite the great potential of midwives as the best and only option for rapidly and effectively scaling up maternal and child health coverage to increase health outcomes, there are challenges and issues that beset the practice. While achieving the ideal midwife to barangay ratio is still a challenge, achieving and maintaining professional competence of midwives, or in other words, ensuring quality is a foremost issue that needs to be addressed for the Philippines to move forward in relation to MDGs 4 and 5. Generally, midwives in both public and private practice do not consistently meet evidence-based quality assurance standards because a significant number of these midwives are graduates of earlier midwifery curriculum. Private midwives in particular are exposed to risks in failures of quality care since capability-building events and resources come mainly from government and rarely have access to much needed continuing quality improvement opportunities. There is failure in compliance with required competencies but the need for the services of these midwives has led to the proliferation of unregulated birthing homes. Those in hospitals do not receive the commensurate position and rate for their work due to issues of scope of practice and equivalent eligibility for specific positions for hospital midwives. In addition, while the public health system has a more structured provision for technical supervision, there is no equivalent system to regularly monitor and supervise private midwife practice, thereby predisposing them to issues of quality care.</p> <p>The issue of high-quality professional midwifery workforce is a function of three basic elements: (1) the pathways (formal education) towards the preparation and maintenance of "skilled birth attendants", the development of competencies for the scope of practice of the midwifery profession; (2) regulation to ensure and maintain competency standards as the foundation of midwifery practice; and (3) enabling policies and environment that would allow midwives to maximize their health contribution through performance of their health promoting and life-saving functions.</p> <p>It is within this context that the Certification Program for Midwives is initiated to respond to the problems and issues in the standards of quality of care, for competency and professionalizing the practice of midwifery – recognizing and acknowledging them as the experts of normal deliveries, in the country.</p>
Project Objective	<p>General Objective: To establish a competency-based standard system for achieving, maintaining and upgrading competence of midwives to provide maternal health care, child health care and other health-related services required for addressing the MNCHN needs of the population towards the country's achievement of the MDG goals.</p> <p>Specific Objectives: 1. To develop a standard competency model for midwives based on the review of the scope of midwifery practice, aligned with globally recognized standards and matched to the essential packages of services across the continuum of care; 2. To set up a system for the systematic assessment and certification of competency of midwives, to include process and tools; 3. To demonstrate the assessment process through the training of an initial batch of "competency assessors"; 4. To design a learning and development intervention (L&D) package for midwives to</p>



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	link assessment and certification to mechanisms for sustaining competence of midwives and addressing shortfall in the required competence standards 5. To present proposals for policies and the institutionalization of an enabling environment for the professionalization and competitiveness of the practice of midwifery in the Philippines.
Focus Area	Health Research
Project Type	Technical Assistance
Project Beneficiary	Midwives
Regional Coverage	Nationwide

IV. Project Accomplishments

Key Activities Implemented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with DOH • Consultations with Midwives • Conceptualization of the certification program • Development of the competency model for midwives • Designing the competency assessment design • Development of training design for assessor's training
Major Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception report • Status report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Assessment of the state of midwifery ◦ Review of the scope and practice of midwifery in relation to the Philippine Quality Framework and ASEAN Integration 2015 • Conceptual Framework for a Midwife Certification Program • Competency Assessment and Certification process and tools • Criteria for recruitment and selection of core assessors • Design of the competency assessment training • Compendium for L&D intervention packages for midwives • Project recommendations for enabling environment for the Certification Program
Project Outcome/Impact	
Lessons Learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project scope should be levelled-off with client. • Agreements for the project should be properly documented and organized in a manner that they can serve as important references in project implementation, in general.
Planned Activities for the Year (2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of remaining reports • Conduct of training of assessors



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V. Attachments

1. List of Participants / Attendance Sheet


Prepared by:


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Project Manager

Noted:

Dorothea C. Boy-Navarro
Program Manager

Noted / Approved by:


Alan S. Cajal
Center Head