YOD COMMUNITY HEALTH TEAMS: A CULTURALLY FRIENDLY STRUCTURE FOR IMPROVING MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH
Ifugao is among 6 provinces of CAR

Known for the “Ifugao Rice Terraces”... a World Heritage site

At least 95% of the people are indigenous peoples... the Ifugaos
RATIONALE for AYOD CHT

- The Province is characterized by mountainous rugged terrains (only 11 of 185 barangays are classified as urban)
- High maternal death and morbidity
- High newborn death and morbidity
- Low prenatal check-up
- Low facility based delivery
- Low births assisted by skilled workers

OPPORTUNITY

- Province is a recipient of various health programs under FOURMULA I (MCH-JICA, UNFPA, HSDSP-EC)
- Organization of the WOMENS HEALTH TEAM is included as a deliverable
2008 CBMS Data: 8 cases (0.26%) Proportion of women deaths

Source: CBMS Census 2007 - 2009

Map 1. Proportion of women deaths due to pregnancy-related causes, 2008

Source: CBMS Census 2007 - 2009
2008 CBMS Data - 73 cases (2.1%)
Proportion of infant deaths

Source: CBMS Census 2007-2009

Map 1. Proportion of infants deaths, 2008
The Province of Ifugao for the past decades and years struggled with maternal death (figure above). In most cases, complications arising from pregnancy and birth can be handled by skilled health personnel.

- Births attended by SBA increased from 60.68% in 1990 to 80.76% in 2010.
- 2008- EO. 19 / 22 Organization of AYOD COMMUNITY HEALTH TEAM (ACHT) in all the barangays
- June 19, 2008- Launching of the AYOD CHT
What is “AYOD”?

- “AYOD” - Local Ifugao name of the hammock, either made of rattan or blanket and cloth tied at both ends of bamboo or wood or pool.

- It is usually carried by two men at a time with other men as alternates, hence the two male volunteers. The male membership however doesn’t only signify this concept, but it signifies a paradigm shift in “health care”.

- Males should also be responsible for health care concerns of the family and of the community (AMMA). It also needs synergy and teamwork to carry an AYOD thus the word “team”. It also signifies the concept of “health in the hands of the community”.

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What is “AYOD”?
The AYOD Community Health Teams were conceived as partners of the Province at the grassroots level to achieve better health outcomes and ultimately contribute to the realization of the MDGs, specifically MDG No. 5 or the reduction of maternal mortality ratio.

Being community-based, the AYOD Community Health Teams are envisioned to evolve into do-it-all community health organizations assuming expanded tasks and functions on health programs.
A review of maternal deaths would reveal complicating factors of inaccessibility of health center (distance of house from the nearest BHS/ RHU/ Hospital), no pre-natal visits (poor health-seeking behavior), too close and too many pregnancy, not fully functional referral system, inaccessibility of a skilled birth attendant and limited financial capability of family.

AYOD CHT Functions:
- Conduct health promotion activities within the barangay (IEC, Advocacy on F1 flagship programs);
- Ensuring that F1 PPAs (health projects) are integrated into the Barangay Development Plan;
- Conduct Parents Classes;
- Active listing and tracking of pregnant women in the Barangay;
- Assist couples in the preparation of birth plan;
- Advice pregnant women to deliver in health facilities;
- Report maternal and under five deaths to the Municipal Health Office;
- Make referrals to health facility or appropriate agency; and
- Assist in malaria, dengue, rabies and environmental sanitation activities.
In the last quarter of 2012 (more than 3 years of implementation including organizing and capacity building), an assessment of ACHT functionality was done showing that at least 185 of the total 185 barangays in the province has an organized ACHT with 150 fully functional ACHTs (conducts meetings, passed resolutions, has clear objectives, uses barangay health information, has action plans, has outputs).

Continuous TA is being given by the PHO and the MHO (midwife conducts monthly meetings).
"The ayod has always been there, but now, institutionalized as a community effort, it has mitigated the two factors that greatly affect maternal health, namely: the decision to seek care and the means of transportation to get it," --- Hector Follosco, a provincial programme officer for UN Population Fund (UNFPA)
On September 4, 2012, the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), together with the Center for Health Market Innovations (CHMI), hosted the 2nd Galing Likha-Kalusugan Awards.

It honors innovation on health. It covers programs being undertaken by both public and private sectors that intend to address quality, affordability, equity and availability of health care. The award is given to an organization in recognition of its dedication to make healthcare more accessible and affordable to Filipinos. It pays tribute to the best health market innovations in the Philippines. Among its 10 finalists is the Ifugao Ayod Community Health Teams.
The AYOD CHTs are also instrumental in the implementation of nutrition programs province-wide thus garnering the Regional and National Award for Nutrition from 2009-2011.
• In 2012, there was only 1 case of maternal death in the province down from 2 cases in 2011 (8 cases in 2008)

• IMR in 2010 and 2011 is at 10.96% and 11.25% respectively of 45 and 42 cases (73 deaths in 2008)

...5 minute video presentation
Thank you very much!

“No Woman should die giving life” remains a goal the Ifugao Provincial Government will always seek. The struggle to improve maternal and infant health continues and with Ayod CHT as partner, the PLGU remains confident that better horizons for our mothers and children are in the offing.