

Activity Highlights

Forum on Synergizing Efforts to Combat Tuberculosis in Cities

July 04, 2014, H20 Hotel, Luneta, City of Manila

- LCP is implementing the Cities Combating Tuberculosis (CCTB) Project which is being supported by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) under the USAID-supported Innovations and Multisectoral Partnerships to Achieve Control of Tuberculosis (IMPACT) project. The CCTB Project is being implemented in 64 cities across the country.
- Through the CCTB project, LCP is assisting cities jumpstart their formation of Multi-Stakeholder's Alliance (MSA) and enable the development of local policy support like ordinance through provision of technical and logistical assistance. LCP will also link the cities to other components of IMPACT project for the provision of other assistance (e.g. capacity development for medical staff and provision of equipment.)
- During the opening remarks, Dr. Jojo Cangao, the Deputy Chief Party of PBSP IMPACT, welcomed the participants and expressed optimism for the project. He said that the country has already targeted TB goals in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To sustain both national and local performance, Dr. Cangao said that there is a need to engage other sectors to harmonize efforts and improve service delivery. This is a strategic direction for a TB-free Philippines.

During the open forum, the participants discussed issues and concerns of local TB implementation.

- Barangay health workers (BHWS) are important treatment partners. IMPACT project also encourages local governments to form community-based organizations. Volunteers can help unload some of the work of the BHWs.
- Volunteerism in TB task force however may not be sustained particularly at the barangay level. There may have been the need to provide honorarium / incentive in the long run.
- Tayabas City has been able to secure additional financing for its local TB program through the creation of its special trust fund. Mayor Dondi Silang said the trust fund should be approved through an ordinance. It has adopted the arrangement similar to special education fund. Local Philhealth reimbursements from maternal, new born screening, animal bite, and malaria to TB will be directed to the special trust fund. The local health board, as the policy making body, will deliberate and prioritize the budget allocation for each program.
- Mayor Silang said Tayabas has been able to provide livelihood assistance for its indigent Multi Drug Resistant (MDR) patients.
- There is also an inquiry on the presence and absence of Department of Education (DepEd) nurses whether they are sufficient enough to perform TB-related duties in schools.

- Tanauan City Mayor Antonio Halili said that cities, due to their high quality of health care service delivery, also serve TB patients from their neighbouring towns. LCP suggests the potential to create interlocal cooperation between the city and its neighbouring towns to complement different LGU efforts and sharing of resources.
- Dr. Voltaire Guadalupe of DOH-CHD Region IV A commended Southern Luzon cities for their performance in local TB implementation. During the previous years, there have been upward trend of cities to the ideal quadrant of High Case Detection Rate (CDR) and High Treatment Success Rate (TSR). Dr. Guadalupe also noted some of their local good practices.

LGU	Best Practices
Antipolo City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TB implementation in Antipolo City Jail • Use of cellphone to monitor and follow-up patients • Treatment partners visit indigent patient's residents to collect their sputum
Batangas City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing of community assembly in barangays with highest local TB incidence to mobilize community support • To increase case findings, the city has established local TB brigade in the city's 105 barangays • Issuance of TB clearance in the workplace
Lucena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal laboratory workers (ILAW) help increase the overwhelming case detection rate in the cities
Tayabas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All TB DOTS center have been certified and Philhealth accredited. • There is treatment site for MDR TB patients • Continuous improvement of TB DOTs facilities • LGU provides assistance to indigent MDR patients
Sta. Rosa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LGU has maintained TB Diagnostic Committee even if it is not required
Tanauan City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Detection Rate (CDR) is worth noting. • The LGU is a hall of fame awardee for good TB practices • Continuing improvement of facilities
Lipa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials
Cabuyao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient TB detection in the workplace • Community TB lectures

For TB DOTs facilities, only 47% of the 152 Rural Health Units in CALABARZON is Philhealth accredited, according to Philhealth Vice President for South Luzon (SL) Dr. Alberto Manduriao. He urged the local governments to enrol their indigents because LGUs are missing the opportunity for reimbursements that could have improved local health facilities. One can create trust fund for the different disease packages subject to Philhealth reimbursement as long as there is an ordinance for the creation of such. In the accounting procedures of trust

fund, each disease can be allotted with subsidiary ledger. The Local Health Board (LHB) becomes the venue for the sharing of incentives on the health workers among others.

In Calamba City, the Multi Stakeholders Alliance (MSA) makes it easier for the city to implement its vision of a TB-free Calamba with at least 96% case detection rate and treatment success rate in all of its 54 barangays. MSAs provide strategic directions and guidance. Since 2010, the city has been able to surpass the targets. The city is also achieving to reduce morbidity and mortality rate by half in 2015. Calamba City has also strengthened its program on MDR-TB patients

During the closing program, LCP Secretary General and Marikina City Mayor Del De Guzman emphasized the need to consolidate public and private efforts for effective TB control. He also said that addressing stigma poses a challenge in dealing with TB patients.

Next Step

As for the next steps, LCP Secretariat will coordinate with the Southern Luzon cities through the city mayor to further assess other needs of cities in developing their local policies (ordinance) and setting up of a multistakeholder's alliance. It is understood that LCP will advocate to the cities to start developing / improving their local TB ordinance and convening their multistakeholders. LCP Secretariat and Project IMPACT will provide full technical assistance along these areas.

During the program, some cities had proposed dates as to when LCP Secretariat and Project IMPACT could conduct its first visit. The LCP Secretariat will reconfirm further these dates with the cities.

1. Bacoor (Week of July 7-11)
2. Tanauan (Week of July 7-11)
3. Lipa (Week of July 28- Aug. 2)
4. Trece Martirez (Week of July 28-Aug.2)
5. Tayabas (July 15, 2014, 10 AM onwards)
6. Antipolo (subject to reconfirmation by the Mayor's Office)
7. Cavite (Week of July 14-18)
8. Imus (Week of July 14-18)
9. Sta. Rosa (July 14)