



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Health
NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL
Region IX – Zamboanga Peninsula
2nd Floor 737 Building, Gov. Ramos Avenue
Sta. Maria, Zamboanga City



RNAHC RESOLUTION NO. 07, SERIES OF 2021

**CREATING THE REGIONAL MATERNAL, INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD CARE COMMITTEE (RMIYCCC) IN
ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA**

- WHEREAS,** Good health is essential to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda reflects the complexity and interconnectedness of the two. Health has a central place in SDG 3 “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”, underpinned by 13 targets that cover a wide spectrum of WHO’s work;
- WHEREAS,** adequate provision of nutrients, beginning in early stages of life, is crucial to ensure good physical and mental development and long-term health, and poor availability or access to food of adequate nutritional quality or the exposure to conditions that impair absorption and use of nutrients has led to large sections of the world’s population being undernourished, having poor vitamin and mineral status or being overweight and obese, with large differences among population groups which are often present simultaneously and are interconnected;
- WHEREAS,** in women, both low body mass index and short stature are highly prevalent in low-income countries, leading to poor fetal development, increased risk of complications in pregnancy, and the need for assisted delivery (Lancet 2008). In some countries in south-central Asia, more than 10% of women aged 15–49 years are shorter than 145 cm. In sub-Saharan Africa, south-central and south-eastern Asia, more than 20% of women have a body mass index less than 18.5 kg/m² and this figure is as high as 40% in Bangladesh, Eritrea and India. Conversely, an increased proportion of women start pregnancy with a body mass index greater than 30 kg/m², leading to increased risk of complications in pregnancy and delivery as well as heavier birth weight and increased risk of obesity in children;
- WHEREAS,** Iron-deficiency anaemia affects 30% women of reproductive age (468 million), and 42% of pregnant women (56 million). Maternal anaemia is associated with reduced birth weight and increased risk of maternal mortality. Anaemia rates have not improved appreciably over the past two decades (UNSSC 2010);
- WHEREAS,** every year an estimated 13 million children are born with intrauterine growth restriction (EJCN, 1998) and about 20 million with low birth weight (UNICEF, 2004). A child born with low birth weight has a greater risk of morbidity and mortality and is also more likely to develop noncommunicable diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension, later in life;
- WHEREAS,** already before COVID-19, the Philippines saw about 2,600 women dying every year due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth. The maternal mortality cases in 2020 can increase to up to 670 additional deaths from the 2019 level with 26 % increase (UPPI and UNFPA 2020);

WHEREAS, the under-5 mortality rate is 27 deaths per 1,000 live births which means that approximately 1 in every 37 children in the Philippines does not survive until their fifth birthday while health facility deliveries is 78%. Still, 1 in 5 births are delivered at home, putting mothers and babies at risk (NDHS 2017);

WHEREAS, the interrelatedness of health and nutrition is clear in the Maternal, Newborn, Child Health and Nutrition (MNCHN) Strategy in line with the DOH Administrative Order 2008-0029 that seeks to rapidly reduce maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality. Foremost to this is the provision of Basic and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC and CEmONC) capability of health facilities to meet the UN MDGs 4 and 5. Newborn care has been incorporated in the provision of these service capabilities. The Administrative Order 2009-0025 formalized the adoption of policies and guidelines on essential newborn care;

WHEREAS, with the current COVID-19 pandemic, continuous provision of essential health services is still mandated under the Code Red alert and that the the Local Government Code has transferred the responsibility for the delivery of basic services to the local governments, including those on health, agriculture, social services and those specified in RA 11148 “Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act”;

WHEREAS, the holistic nurturing care approach to maternal, infant and young child is essential for their survival which can be improved with the creation of the Regional Maternal, Infant and Young Child Care Committee (RMIYCCC), an organized sub-committee of RNAHC with the addition of the following personnel from DOH CHD – IX that will oversee and ensure the quality of service delivery and management among these target groups in Region IX:

1. Dr. Cheryl R. Sarmiento – LHSD Chief
2. Dr. Mary Germeyn D. Punzalan – FHU Cluster Head
3. Ms. Evelyn M. Capistrano, RND – Nutritionist-Dietitian IV
4. Ms. Chrystal I. Dela Cerna, RND – HEPO III

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that RNAHC IX creates the Regional Maternal, Infant and Young Child Care Committee (RMIYCCC) in Zamboanga Peninsula;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Department of Health CHD IX shall be the lead agency and shall be co-chaired by the National Nutrition Council Region IX and therefore provide this committee updates on the developments of service delivery monitoring and implementation.

RESOLVED FINALLY, that RNAHC to regularly monitor the functionality of RMIYCCC to ensure that objectives have been met.

DONE during the 3rd Quarter Meeting of Regional NAHC IX, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting, conducted on September 17, 2021 via teleconference (Google Meet).

Certified Correct:

(signed)

NIMFA D. EKONG, RND, MDM

Secretary and

Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator

NNC - IX

Approved:

(signed)

JOSHUA G. BRILLANTES, MD, MPH

Chairperson and OIC-Regional Director

DOH Zamboanga Peninsula CHD