



# MDG-F 2030, Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition for Children 0-24 Months Old

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## Special points of interest:

- Ragay, Camarines Sur officially became a JP area on 19 January 2011. The municipality will soon be signing a MOA with FAO on the testing of the Food Security Early Warning System
- CHD Regional Director Ariel Valencia joined the JP team visit in Carles, Iloilo and provided assistance to include the municipality's birthing facility in the targets for health facility development in 2012.
- Dir. Anden of NCHP presented the MDG-F 2030 to the health workers of Zamboanga City during the MR SIA orientation.

## Inside this issue:

Team visited breastfeeding room in 3 hospitals in the JP areas **2**

JP's Baseline Survey Team caught in action in Aurora **2**

MDG-F 2030 RTWG reported to the media LGU's support to the Joint Programme **2**

Naga City & Zamboanga City reported completion of LGU-led activities complementing the JP **3**

Regional TWG meetings reported progress and challenges **3**

## Mayors of JP areas reconfirm support to MDG-F 2030

Mayors of Joint Programme (JP) cities and municipalities in Regions 5, 6 and 9 reconfirmed support to MDG-F 2030 during JP team visits held on 7-17 March 2011.

Mayor John G. Bonggat of Naga City presented to the JP team executive issuances on Maternal Newborn Child Health and Nutrition and on reconstituting the composition of the Naga City Nutrition Committee that complements MDG-F 2030 initiatives. Naga City also signed an agreement with CHD 5, expressing commitments supporting the JP and its advocacies.

Mayor Ricardo B. Aquino of Ragay, Camarines Sur confirmed his commitment to breastfeeding, and IYCF initiatives. The Ragay Sangguniang Bayan (SB) adopted a resolution expressing support to MDG-F 2030.

Iloilo City's local ordinance on IYCF forms part of the counterpart initiatives of Mayor Jed Mabilog. Mayor Arnold A. Betita of Carles,

## MDG-F 2030 PMC and NTWG members completed the JP Team Visits in Regions 5, 6, and 9

MDG-F 2030 PMC and NTWG members completed the JP Team Visits in Regions 5, 6 and 9 on 17 March 2011. Team visits were held on 7-8 March in Region 5, 9-11 March in Region 6, and 14-17 March in Region 9.

The JP team visits were conducted to increase appreciation, awareness, and overall guaranteed support of partners in the JP areas on MDG-F 2030, and improve coordination and communication with and among key partners. PMC Chair, Asec. Maria-

Iloilo informed the group that the municipality has recently passed a resolution supporting IYCF.

Mayor Celso L. Lobregat's City Administrator reported that their

IYCF local ordinance already passed 1st reading, while Mayor Enrique J. Cabahug, Jr. committed to provide counterpart funds supporting JP activities.

Bernardita T. Flores and PMC member, Dir. Asuncion M. Anden joined the visit in region 9, while UN country team focal points (FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO)

and national agency partners (DOH-NCHP, NNC, NCDPC) from the NTWG were represented in all visits. The team also joined the regional TWG

meetings and presented updates on the various components, and provided inputs in finalizing the regional annual work plan for year 2.

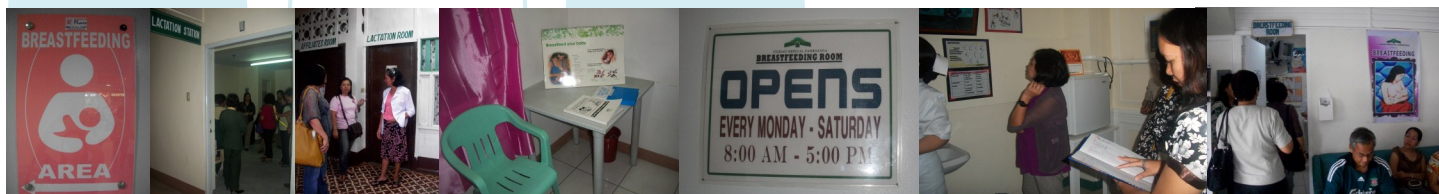


(L-R) JP team visits the LCEs of Naga City, Ragay, Camarines Sur, Iloilo City, Carles, Iloilo, Zamboanga City, and Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur.



L-R: WHO/NCHP, FAO, NNC, NNC6, St. Paul Hospital, DOLE R6, UNICEF

## MDG-F 2030 team visited breastfeeding rooms Regions 6 and 9



The team visit in regions 6 and 9 included a short tour in the breastfeeding rooms in hospitals and private firms.

In Region 6, the team composed of Ted Francisco (UNICEF), Julie Labitigan (WHO), Cecille Pastores (FAO), Jona Cabaguio and Didi Vega (NNC) joined the regional TWG headed by Ms. Nona Tad-y in visiting the breastfeeding stations that were recently set-up as a result of the JP's advocacy. The visit covered the breastfeeding rooms in SM Iloilo City, Robinson's Mall, and St. Paul Hospital. DOLE's JP focal point in Region 6, in cooperation with ILO, is

part of the team that urged companies to establish BF rooms for their clients and workers.

Breastfeeding rooms were also visited in Region 9 by the PMC and NTWG members namely, Dir. Asuncion Anden, Susan Batutay (WFP), Dr. Pura Rayco-Solon (UNICEF), Cecille Pastores (FAO), Jona Cabaguio and Didi Vega (NNC). In Zamboanga City, the team visited BF rooms in the CHO. The plan to have a BF room in the City hall that was being constructed was also confirmed. Ciudad Medical Zamboanga Hospital's breastfeeding room was highly commended by the team as it is highly ventilated,

appropriately furnished and strategically placed near the hospital's waiting area. Hospital officials expressed intention to set up a human milk bank in the future for the sick babies at the NICU.

The team also visited the Aurora General Hospital breastfeeding room for their workers and clients.

## Baseline Survey Team, caught in action in Aurora



The Joint Programme's Baseline Survey Team, the UP-College of Public Health, was caught in action in Barangay

Balidi, Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur.

The baseline survey team is composed of UP-CPH field researchers and barangay health workers. The JP team participants witnessed an interview and had an opportunity to dis-

cuss with barangay health workers concerns on monitoring use of iron folic acid tablet distributed, IYCF peer counseling, and the need to address adolescent pregnancies.

Watch out for the release of results in May 2011.



## MDG-F 2030 TWG in Region 9 reported to media strong LGU support to the JP

The MDG-F 2030 Technical Working Group in Region 9 reported to the media in a short press conference the strong LGU support to the Joint Programme. PMC member, Director Asuncion Anden highlighted the LGU's commitment and counterpart including issuance of resolutions and local ordinances specifically along the promotion of desirable infant and young child feeding practices, including advocacies on exclusive breastfeeding and proper complementary feeding.

Child Food Security and Nutrition goals were

reiterated, to wit 1) increased exclusive breastfeeding by 20% annually; 2) reduced prevalence of undernutrition by 3% by 2012; and 3) improved capacities of national and local government and stakeholders in promoting, supporting and implementing policies and programs on IYCF practices.

The members of the press also inquired regarding the Milk Code and breastfeeding as a tool for family planning.

Dr. Anden further reported that the JP team visited Region 9 to reconfirm plans with local partners in translating MDG-F 2030's compo-

nents into sustainable actions.

The press conference was covered by Channel 11 (affiliate of ABC 5), and feature stories were printed in Zamboanga Today and Zamboanga Times.





## Naga City and Zamboanga City reported LGU-led initiatives complementing the Joint Programme

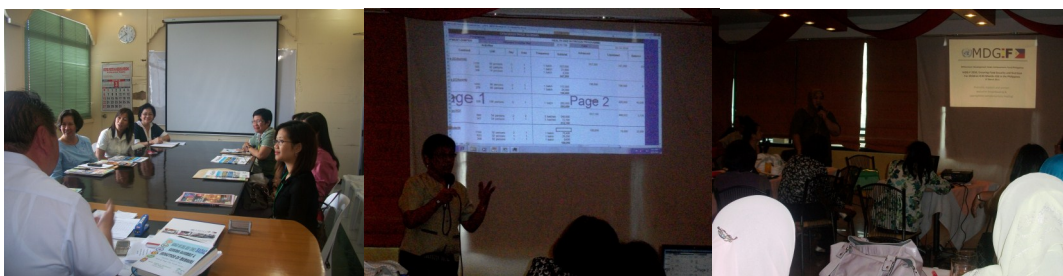
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**Promote, support and protect  
exclusive breastfeeding &  
appropriate complementary  
feeding!**



L-R: Naga City's CNAO, CHD 9's IYCF Coordinator, Zamboanga City's CHO representative

Naga City and Zamboanga City reported successful completion of LGU-led initiatives, complementing those of the Joint Programme. These include LGU-funded trainings on breastfeeding advocacy and clinical practice for health workers, lectures on the importance of breastfeeding, distribution of multi-vitamins and iron tablets, integration of breastfeeding and basic nutrition in pre-marriage counseling, inclusion of MDG-F 2030 discussion during LGU meetings, conduct of

Breastfeeding Forum, and organization of peer counselors. The JP areas were provided with very limited funds from the MDG-F 2030, and thus the significant role of the LGUs in ensuring sustainability of the initiatives and widening of its impact. The CHD in the JP regions has also reported initiatives complementing the joint programme, including IYCF trainings for hospitals and specifically for Region 9, trainings on IYCF for the members of the academe.

## Regional TWG Meetings reported progress and challenges

The Regional Technical Working Group meetings in Regions 5, 6 and 9 reported progress and challenges in the course of implementing the Joint Programme.

The JP areas' focal points shared their progress

reports to the JP team visit participants, highlighting significant counterpart of local partners, while awaiting technical assistance from the Joint Programme. All areas have identified their peer counselors and are now awaiting the training module and schedule of training. Health workers are also now trained in IYCF. Challenges reported include the following: 1) delay in the dissemination of the guidelines for distributing iron folic acid supplements; 2) delay in the conduct of training for midwives on community organizing, and IYCF training for peer counselors; 3) and uncertainties in the roll-out of the COMBI initiative.



L-R: Regional Technical Working Group Meeting in Iloilo City, Naga City and Zamboanga City.

The regions expressed enthusiasm towards the joint programme and requested for the different components to coordinate ahead of time for activities to be implemented.

At the time of the team visits, the regions were finalizing their annual work plan for year 2, except for Ragay, that still has to implement year 1 activities.

The RTWG in each JP region is chaired by NNC's Nutrition Programme Coordinator,

and assisted by MDG-F 2030's Field Programme Coordinator. The RWTG is composed of representatives from CHD, DOLE and the LGU covered by the JP(MHO, CHO, MNAO, CNAO).

The RTWG in Region 6 and 9 convenes monthly and every two months in Region 5.