

Title: Realizing Universal Health Care in the Barangays: The Dinalupihan Case Study

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Abstract

Introduction

Health leadership and management capacity of leaders at the barangay level – the principal planning and implementing unit of government – are essential in strengthening primary care and initiating the horizontal integration of population- and individual-based health services. We developed the Barangay Leadership Management Program (BLMP) using Dinalupihan, Bataan as a pilot implementation site to establish a functional health management system for effective primary care service delivery.

Methods

The BLMP was designed following the Department of Health's systems framework for primary care and applied the Zuellig Family Foundation's Health Change Model. The program consisted of a primary care baseline analysis, a noncommunicable disease (NCD) delivery package improvement, capacity building sessions, and multi-stakeholder engagement in barangays with high number of NCD-related premature deaths.

Results

The Dinalupihan case study showed that improvements in barangay health management contribute to UHC systems integration. The BLMP resulted to the reactivation of barangay health boards and development of an integrated NCD service delivery system. Additionally, functional NCD technical working group (TWG) was formed, primary care providers' competencies in managing NCDs were enhanced, the percentage of adults screened for NCD increased from 3%, to 12%, and 80% households were matched to primary care providers. To ensure sustainable community access to services, Dinalupihan invested in building a Super Rural Health Unit that offers complete essential primary care services that include maternal, child, nutrition, and NCDs.

Conclusion/s and Recommendations

Accelerating UHC systems integration requires mobilization and capacity strengthening of barangays to address public health problems such as NCDs and deliver primary care services. A well-designed leadership management program empowers barangay leaders to establish a health management system that is responsive to the healthcare needs of individuals and communities. More importantly, improvements in the system and service delivery result in improvements in population and individual health outcomes by making quality healthcare accessible to all.

Keywords: Universal Health Care, Primary Health Care, Health Change Model