

APRU Global Health Conference 2025

Towards Planetary Health Equity: A Global Call for Shared Solutions

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Strengthening DOH Regional Core Teams
in North Luzon Philippines: How the
Bayang Malusog (Healthy Nation) Program
Empowers Health Leaders to Accelerate
Universal Health Coverage**

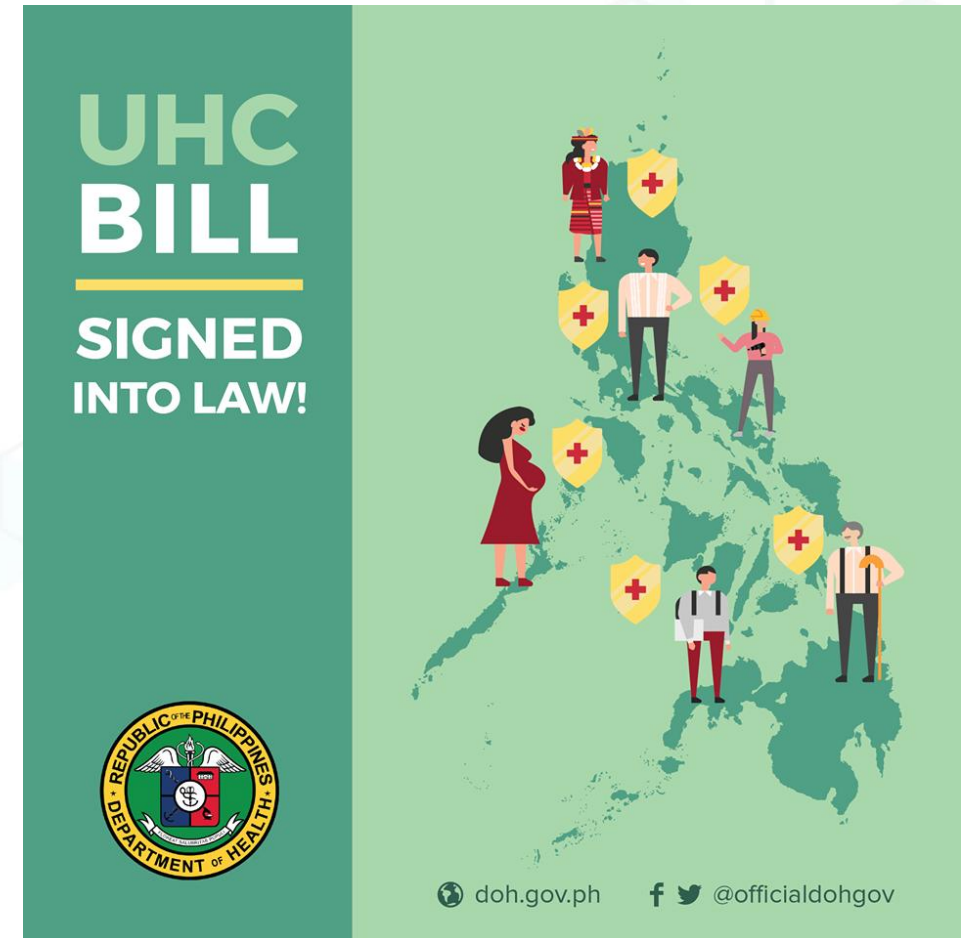
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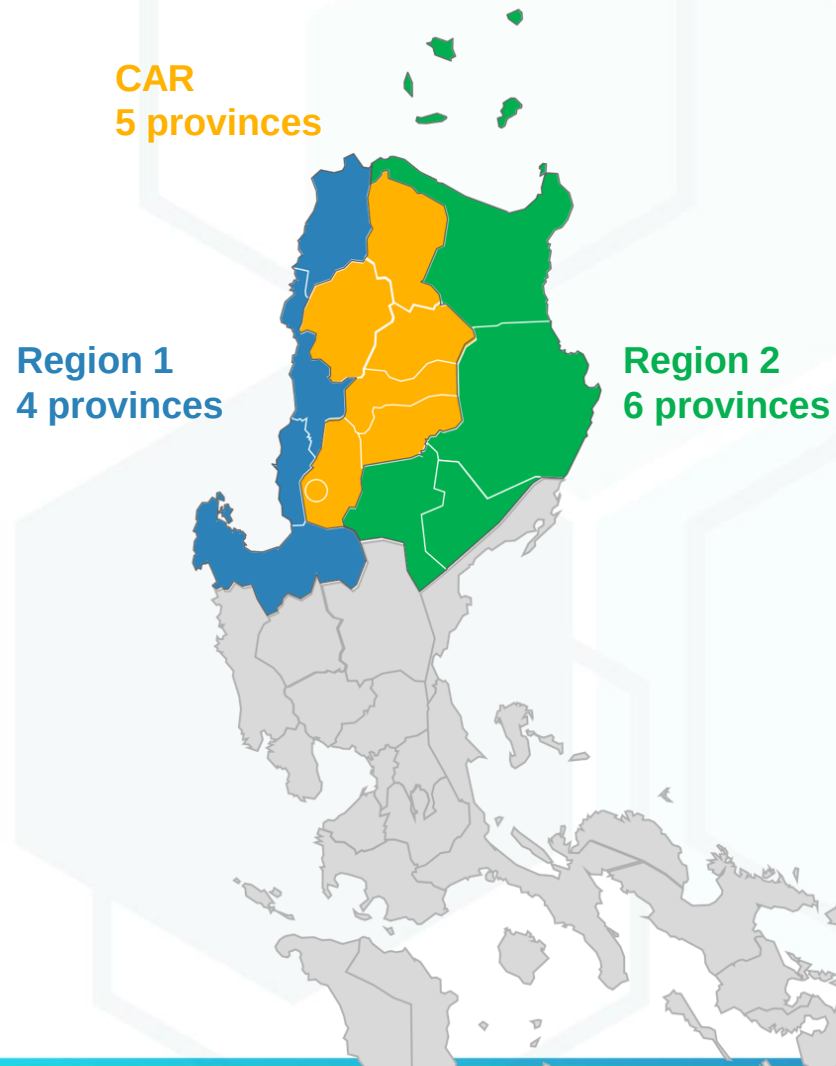
Background

- Universal Health Care Law (RA 11223) was enacted on February 20, 2019
- Ensures **equitable access to quality and affordable health care services**, while providing **financial risk protection** for all Filipinos





Background



Mission: To improve health outcomes for all Filipinos by strengthening local health systems through leadership, governance, and stakeholder collaboration.



Bayang Malusog Program

Purpose: Enhance leadership & technical skills to accelerate Universal Health Care (UHC) implementation



Bayang Malusog (Healthy Nation) Leadership Development Program

Responsive Leadership for UHC

Executive Sessions for Regional Directors
Leadership Development Modules for Provincial Health Team Leaders
Community of Practice for Priority Areas
Training of Academic Partners for roll-out of Provincial and Municipal training

IMPROVED BL COMPETENCIES

Responsive Local Health Systems

Regional Leadership and Universal Health Care Milestones:

Functional Regional UHC Core Team,
Regional Epidemiological Surveillance Unit,
Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management in Health, Functional Regional Licensing Team
Preparatory, Organizational and Functional Local Health System Maturity of UHC Integration Sites
PhilHealth Accreditation and DOH Licensing of Primary Care Facilities
Provincial and Municipal Training roll-out

IMPROVED HEALTH OUTCOMES

Better Health Outcomes

Improved access to primary care services – registration to Primary Care Facilities, First Patient Encounter
Improved health outcomes

March 2022 -
November 2024



Responsive Leadership for UHC

Approach: 10-20-70 framework

10% Formal training **20%** Learning from others **70%** Application



Executive Sessions for
Regional Directors

Leadership Development
Modules for PHTLs

Community of Practice for
Priority Areas

Rollout of provincial and
municipal trainings through
academic partner institutions



Responsive Leadership for UHC

Improved Bridging Leadership Competencies

Competencies	CAR		Region 1		Region 2	
	Baseline (Mean)	2024 (Mean)	Baseline (Mean)	2024 (Mean)	Baseline (Mean)	2024 (Mean)
Explore technical content, new ideas, and good practices	2.57	3.43 (↑)	2.86	3.29 (↑)	2.29	2.57 (↑)
Co-create health strategies to address challenges	2.86	3.43 (↑)	2.43	3.29 (↑)	2.29	2.71 (↑)
Design and implement local policies	2.71	2.86 (↑)	2.86	2.86 (=)	2.29	3.00 (↑)
Strengthen multimedia health advocacies	3.00	3.14 (↑)	2.71	3.14 (↑)	2.43	3.00 (↑)
Implement and refine innovations and solutions	2.43	2.86 (↑)	2.86	3.00 (↑)	2.43	3.14 (↑)
Adopt lessons from crisis response to improve systems	2.57	3.14 (↑)	2.57	3.29 (↑)	2.86	3.14 (↑)

Competency Rating

1.00 – 1.49	I can not do this with confidence and teach others
1.50 – 2.49	I have started to do this but need to learn and practice more
2.50 – 3.49	I can do this very well
3.50 – 4.00	I can do this with confidence and teach others

Source: BMLDP BL Competency Assessment Baseline and 2024 Results



Responsive Local Health Systems

70% Application: Health System Improvements

Regional DOH leaders support provincial leaders in creating effective and responsive province-wide health systems towards implementation of Universal Health Care

Program Areas	Local Health System Maturity Level				Konsulta Facility Accreditation Status		Facility Licensing Status		Health System Priority Areas*	
	Preparatory Level		Organizational Level		Baseline	2024	Baseline	2024	Baseline	2024
	Baseline	2024	Baseline	2024						
CAR	94%	100%	33%	68%	99%	100%	80%	100%	0%	100%
Region 1	93%	100%	27%	87%	67%	76%	3%	22%	17%	100%
Region 2	98%	100%	34%	85%	76%	77%	91%	96%	83%	100%

***Health System Priority Areas (6):** Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit; Disaster risk reduction and management in Health System; Health Promotion Unit; Licensing of Level 2,3 General and Specialty Hospitals; Partnership with Relevant Stakeholders

Legend:

- 0-35% achieved
- 36-70% achieved
- 71-100% achieved

Source: PhilHealth Konsulta Status Report (Provinces and Regions), Provincial Health Office
Report on Licensed Health Facilities



Better Health Outcomes

Outcome:

Improved Health Access Indicators

Strengthened regional capacity to support province-wide health systems → improved provincial health outcomes

Program Areas	% of Registered Konsulta Clients (of Total Population)		% of Registered Konsulta clients with First Patient Encounter	
	Baseline	Q2 2024	Baseline	Q2 2024
CAR	62%	77%	20%	23%
Region 1	62%	43%	7%	18%
Region 2	52%	48%	7%	16%



Additional Results



- **Formed effective regional UHC core teams in CAR, Ilocos, and Cagayan Valley**
- **Enhanced technical support and engagement of PhilHealth and other national agencies**
- **Gained stronger commitment for UHC implementation from local officials**



Lessons Learned



Integrating leadership training with technical sessions, mentoring and coaching, and hands-on practicums was a critical factor in strengthening participants' capabilities and ensuring the effective application of lessons in real-world settings.



Clear action plans coupled with visible “quick wins” maintain momentum and validate that reforms are achievable



The active commitment of regional leaders, together with the engagement of PhilHealth and local governments, is critical to taking ownership of UHC challenges and driving collective solutions.



Next Steps and Recommendations

Sustaining Capacity and Leadership for UHC



- Continue capacity development through Bayang Malusog Community of Practice
- Deepen technical expertise and leadership skills of DOH Regional UHC Core Teams
- Strengthen coaching and mentoring support for provincial and city health leaders

Strengthening Local Ownership and Collaboration for UHC



- Support localization of UHC policies and integration strategies
- Promote multi-sector engagement to sustain ownership and co-ownership of UHC goals

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THANK YOU

