



# Essential Health Care Program for Filipino Children



# Millennium Development Goals

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- ▶ Achieve universal primary education
- ▶ Reduce neglected childhood diseases and thereby the risk to other major diseases
- ▶ Develop global partnership for development
- ▶ Ensure environmental sustainability

# Poor Health Status of Filipino Children

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- ▶ 97% of all children suffer from tooth decay



- ▶ 67% of all children suffer from intestinal worms



- ▶ 30% are malnourished

# Causes of Sickness and Disease

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- ▶ Poor personal hygiene



- ▶ Poor environmental sanitation at home and in school



- ▶ Lack of access to clean water and basic sanitation facilities

# Essential Health Care Program

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- ▶ Daily handwashing with soap



- ▶ Daily toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste



- ▶ Twice a year deworming of all children

# Cost of EHCP per Child / Year

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Package contains:

- ▶ 8 toothbrushes
- ▶ 4 bars of soap
- ▶ 1 bottle 500 ml fluoride toothpaste

Php 25.00 per child

# Focus on Schools

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- ▶ The place where children, parents and the community gather
- ▶ Children spend most of their time in schools
- ▶ The ideal place to implement behavioral change and to institute preventive programs



# Use of School Structure

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- ▶ Children see teachers as their role models



- ▶ Existing school personnel can be trained to monitor existing health programs



- ▶ Schools provide quality manpower to ensure proper implementation

# Creating a School Facility

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- ▶ Encourages children to develop good healthy habits



- ▶ Paves the way for behavioral change



- ▶ Highlights the importance of water and improved sanitation

# Working Together

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- ▶ The Essential Health Care Program works best if different partners work together and each play their role:

- LGUs
- DepED
- Fit for School
- Parents
- Community



# Role of Local Government Units

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- ▶ Commit to support and sustain funding of the program
- ▶ Provide funding for the timely procurement of EHCP materials
- ▶ Support the proper implementation of EHCP through ensuring improved water access



# Role of DepED

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- ▶ Implement EHCP in schools
- ▶ Guide school heads, teachers, and health personnel through memorandum orders and policies
- ▶ Conduct monitoring and evaluation
- ▶ Issue orders and create policies to guide program implementers



# Role of RD/SDS

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- ▶ Ensure implementation of DepED Orders No. 65 and No. 66, s. 2009 in all schools
- ▶ Oversee the overall implementation and monitoring of the program
- ▶ Support school heads with school-based management and strengthening links with the local government

# Role of School Heads

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- ▶ Make group handwashing and toothbrushing part of daily class programs
- ▶ Communicate regularly with school health personnel and classroom teachers to ensure proper program implementation in schools
- ▶ Include EHCP in the School Improvement Plan / Annual Improvement Plan

# Role of Teachers

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- ▶ Facilitate and guide the children in their daily activities
- ▶ Empower children to take leadership roles
- ▶ Ensure availability of water, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and soap in their classrooms
- ▶ Administer the deworming tablets with the supervision of the health personnel or barangay health worker

# Role of the Health Personnel

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- ▶ Conduct a basic orientation on the Fit for School EHCP for teachers, school administrators, PTA members and parents, establish linkage with the community, especially with the BHW
- ▶ Provide teachers and parents with needed information and address their questions, concerns and misconceptions about deworming

# Role of the Health Personnel

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- ▶ Request the presence of the BHW during mass deworming day to support the teachers
- ▶ Take the lead in coordinating the annual monitoring with the PTA and a barangay official
- ▶ Give feedback and explain monitoring results to teachers and to the principal

# Role of the PTA

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- ▶ Facilitate the construction of washing facilities and provision of toothbrush holders



- ▶ Lobby for access to water and sanitation in the school, LGU, and the community



- ▶ Assist in the implementation and monitoring of the program

# Role of Parents

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- ▶ Participate in PTA assembly and sign consent forms for deworming
- ▶ Be role models by practicing handwashing and toothbrushing at home
- ▶ Provide soap, toothbrush, and toothpaste at home so that children can practice these activities daily

# Role of Fit for School



- ▶ Support the education and health sectors in implementing EHCP
- ▶ Provide technical assistance i.e., consultation, capacity building, training, research
- ▶ Develop Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials

# Outcomes after One (1) Year

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- ▶ 50% lower prevalence of worm infections
- ▶ 40% prevention of oral infections
- ▶ 20% fewer malnourished children
- ▶ 30% reduction in absenteeism

