



FIT FOR SCHOOL

Essential Health Care Package for Filipino Children

> Report

Global Handwashing Day, October 16, 2008 in the Province of Bukidnon and the City of Cagayan de Oro, Philippines



in partnership with

Fit for School
EHCP Project Office
Hayes Street
Cagayan de Oro, Philippines



Report 10/2008

Global Handwashing Day

Sumpong Elementary School
Malaybalay City, Bukidnon
Date: October 16, 2008

City Central School
Cagayan de Oro City

In celebration of the Global Handwashing Day, the Philippine Senate passed Resolution No. 627 urging the Department of Health, Department of Education, and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation to use all resources available and actively participate in this activity. As a corollary to this resolution, the Department of Education also released a memorandum urging its partner agencies and all private and public elementary and secondary schools in the country to participate in this global activity through educational and social activities to heighten the awareness on handwashing with soap.

In Cagayan de Oro City, a Task Force was organized to spearhead the local observance of this activity which was successfully celebrated last October 16. The Task Force was composed of representatives from DepEd (Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental and Region 10 offices), DOH Region 10, DSWD Region 10, Philippine National Red Cross, Congressional Offices of Cong. Klarex Uy (District 1) and Cong. Rufus Rodriguez (District 2), Misamis Oriental Provincial Health Office, the City Government, PhilHealth, and the German-funded organizations namely Committee of German Doctors, PeriUrban Vegetable Project (PUVeP) and Fit for School-Essential Health Care Package (EHCP).



A health personnel demonstrates proper handwashing with soap

The local celebration was a back to back activity with two Essential Health Care Package (EHCP) launchings in Cagayan de Oro City (City Central School) and in the province of Bukidnon (Sumpong Elementary

School). The EHCP promotes handwashing with soap and fluoride toothbrushing as daily school activities as well as biannual deworming. This project will benefit more than 400,000 public schoolchildren in Cagayan de Oro City (90, 000), Bukidnon (200,000) and Misamis Oriental (120,000).

One of the main highlights of the activity was the presence of the Department of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus who also saw the need to improve the poor health status of the public school children through proper hygienic practices. Public officials and representatives from different groups like the DepEd Adopt-a-school Program, UNICEF, USAID and other civic organizations like Kiwanis were also present and showed their strong support to the activity.

Secretary Jesli Lapus led the ceremonial handwashing with soap and then a press conference followed wherein media practitioners asked questions about the rationale behind Global Handwashing, about the implementation of EHCP, access to clean water and sanitation issues.



From L-R: Cong. Rufus Rodriguez, DepEd Sec. Jesli Lapus and Dr. Bella Monse, Fit For School Project Coordinator wash their hands with soap in celebration of the Global Handwashing Day

The Global Handwashing Day raised public awareness to a long-neglected issue on poor hygiene practices that cause serious illness especially among children.