



FIT FOR SCHOOL

Essential Health Care Package for Filipino Children

> Report

Training of Trainers

Capacity Building Course

Appletree Resort, Opol, Misamis Oriental

July 22-24, 2009

in partnership with

Fit for School

EHCP Project Office

4th floor Mother's Haus Bldg.

Hayes Street

Cagayan de Oro, Philippines



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With the release of Dep Ed Orders 56, 65 and 66, schools are now mandated to institutionalize daily handwashing with soap, daily toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste and bi-annual de-worming in schools and are ordered to immediately construction of the water and hand washing facility. Hence, Fit for School, as a committed partner of DepEd, organized a Capacity Building Course last July 22-24, 2009 at the Appletree Resort, Opol, Misamis Oriental, with the theme: ***Trainer Power! Empowering Trainers for Nationwide EHCP Implementation.***

The objectives of the said event are:

- to facilitate the process of creating a Training for Trainers for EHCP implementers
- to equip participants for intensive EHCP monitoring
- to strengthen participants in the handling of their EHCP roles
- to present the mechanics for the best implementing division/school competition

The event was attended by 144 participants who representatives from the DepEd Central Office - Health and Nutrition Center, DepEd Regional Medical Officers, Regional Supervising Dentists and Adopt a School Program Coordinators.

Day 1

The capacity building course started with Ms. Merlie Asprer, Consultant of the Office of the Asst. Secretary for Special Programs, presenting

the course overview of the training program. She proceeded to present the EHCP update, background, concepts and strategies. This was followed by Dr. Maria Corazon Dumlaog, OIC-Office of the Asst. Director, who spoke about the institutionalization EHCP and the role of the Health and Nutrition Center in EHCP implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Dr. Dumlaog stressed on the roles and responsibilities of DepEd-HNC, which includes, but are not limited to, policy formulation, collaboration with partners, formulation of guidelines, establishment of a data base of the project and organizing events related to the project (MOA Signing, Launching, President Visit, etc).

The EHCP concepts were given life by the sharing of experience of MRS. ILUMINADA A. OLAYA, Principal of Villaverde Central School, Nueva Vizcaya. She emphasized on the steps they took in their school like the organization of VIVA EHCP (Vivacious Initiative of Villaverde to Act on EHCP), formulation and implantation of their action plan, monitoring and evaluation and encouraging sustainability of the project. She admitted that in the beginning, it was hard; the implementation harder and the sustainability hardest, but with the support of the stakeholders; PTA, LGU, NGO, Alumni, SGC, and VIVA EHCP Officers, nothing is hard, harder, hardest with their working relationships: mobilized stakeholders.

To give a wider perspective of the EHCP, Dr. Ella Naliponguit, Chief of the Regional Health and

Nutrition Unit of Region X, explained health issues, problems and concerns affecting school children stating that allocation for medical supplies is only 10% of the 10% allocation for supplies from the MOOE and that health has a supportive function in the DEPED. She also mentioned that school health is for the provision of a supportive and nurturing environment in the schools for better learning to ultimately increase achievement rate/academic performance, which is DepEd's main goal.

The participants were then divided into three (3) groups for the parallel break out sessions. The Basic Orientation was handled by Mr. Democrito Figueroa Jr., Fit for School Project Officer; the session on Facilities were presented by Ms. Thieza Verdijo, Fit for School Asst. Project Officer, and the Monitoring Form was explained by Dr. Maria Fe Sarita, Chief of the Dental Health And Nutrition Section of the Division of Misamis Oriental. Each of the sessions provided the participants the venue to critique and enhance the EHCP PowerPoint presentations and the monitoring tool.

The recommendations were presented for the approval of the body during the plenary. Suggestions regarding the PowerPoint included the editing of some photographs to make it more appropriate to the audience or to make it more gender sensitive, and revisions as to some texts that were used so as to make the message simpler and clearer to the viewers. Comments on the monitoring tool mentioned that the monitoring form be reviewed and edited e.g. over all score cannot be summed up; there must be a numerical value to each item. All changes were noted and the final PowerPoint

presentation and the edited monitoring form were to be used the following day.



Thieza Verdijo explaining the facilities

Day 2

To kick off the activity on the second day, Dr. Aileen Mangahas, Medical Officer of the Province of Tarlac, shared their step by step actions in implementing the EHCP in their province. Then the participants were assigned to the different divisions for their actual school visit and monitoring.

The school visits composed of each participant conducting an actual EHCP orientation in a school and actual monitoring using the monitoring tool as edited. The experience allowed the participants to have first hand information of the program and interact with the school personnel, even the students. This also gave them the idea of the facilities which may be constructed in their respective regions.



Participants doing the actual monitoring



When the participants came back from the field, their experiences were processed in a parallel session. Here, they gave feedback, both on the strong and the weak areas, of the different schools they went to. The participants shared their experiences where they appreciated the field activity where they were exposed to the real school setting, and enabled to conduct an actual orientation and monitoring.

The participants expressed admiration on how the program was well running in the three divisions, with a few exceptions. They also claimed that they learned so much from the schools, e.g. innovativeness and creativity of the school heads and the teachers, support of the PTA in the construction of the handwashing and toothbrushing facility.

As to the material, they said that hard copies (flip charts, photocopies) are needed in cases where a PowerPoint presentation is not applicable. The participants proposed that in a similar outdoor activity, the time element should really be considered, especially for schools which are far from the training venue.

Thereafter, Ms. Merlie Asprer discussed the mechanics for the search for the Best Implementing School, Division and Region for SY 2009-2010, where the monitoring form would be the basis. The competition came

about to encourage proper implementation of the program and to recognize the outstanding implementers. She went to explain further the criteria for judging, the composition of a committee, the prizes and the awarding which is targeted on August 2010. This sparked the interest of the participants and questions and recommendations were raised, and were noted. A separate date will be set for the formal launching of the competition, which awarding is set on October of 2010.

Dr. Richell Corilla proceeded to explain the action planning with corresponding time frames and the output were collected afterwards.

Day 3

A teambuilding activity was in place during the third day which was the white water river rafting. The refreshing outdoor experience permitted the participants to bond and build healthy relationships among each other, beyond the formalities of an indoor training. The participants acknowledged the skills and knowledge they gained through the activity and their roles as advocates of the program through linkages, mobilization and strengthening implementation. The participants departed for their respective regions confident to train other trainers and that the EHCP will bring about a healthy change in the children's lives.

