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## Six Regions, One Campaign: Mindanao NSFs Celebrate NBS Week 2015



Reunion of Saved Babies at CARAGA Regional Hospital and Zanorte Medical Center. Bottom: Other activities include (clockwise from left) NBS lectures, radio pluggings, poster-making contest, and distribution of tokens to patients.

In celebration of the Newborn Screening (NBS) Week, Newborn Screening Center (NSC)–Mindanao enjoined all health and birthing facilities from the different regions in Mindanao to center all celebrations and campaigns on newborn screening.

Newborn screening facilities (NSFs) all over the region responded well and celebrated the event in various ways. Some facilities kicked off the celebration by motorcades and radio pluggings, while others held NBS lectures during the Buntis Congress, organized Reunions of Saved Babies, conducted staff training on NBS. Other NSFs organized mother-and-child contests and NBS mini-Olympics.

Some NSFs offered free NBS, which has become a regular activity during the NBS Week for several years now.

Even the academic community joined in the celebration,

where some universities and colleges ran poster-making contests.

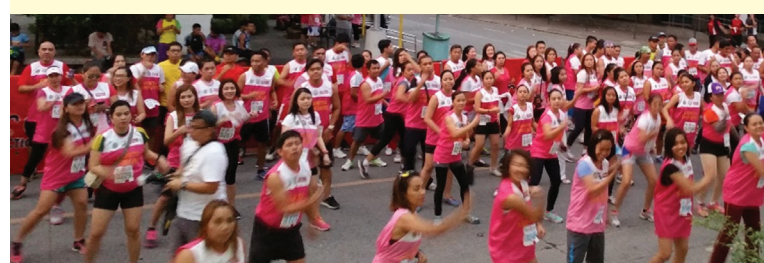
In return, NSC-Mindanao held the Best NBS Week Celebration Contest, where six facilities were chosen: RHU-Wao, RHU-Midsayap, Bukidnon Provincial Hospital-Manolo Fortich, Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial Hospital, CARAGA Regional Hospital, and Zanorte Medical Center.

Noteworthy as runners-up were: Barangay Health Station Bagontaas, RHU-Roxas Zamboanga del Norte, Wilfredo Palma Memorial Hospital, Blessed Mother Birthing Home, St. Joseph Southern Bukidnon Hospital, New Bayugan Medical Hospital, Emelia Acuna Birthing Home, General Santos City Hospital, Misamis Oriental Provincial Hospital-Alubijid, South Cotabato Provincial Hospital, and Rural Health Unit-Buadiposo. *P.Bermudez*



## Mindanao News Briefs

### I Run to Save Lives



A round of zumba warms up participants before the fun run.

The Department of Health–Regional Office 10 conducted the Newborn Screening (NBS) Fun Run Year 2, with the theme “I Run to Save Lives,” in Cagayan de Oro City on October 4, 2015.

The activity jumpstarted the NBS Week celebration and was participated by different government agencies, the private sector, and schools. Health personnel from nearby municipalities Opol, Alubijid, and Tagoloan of Misamis Oriental also came to join.

The fun run had three categories: 5 kilometers, 3 kilometers, and 500 meters. Awards were given to the first five finishers per category.

Winners from each category were given newborn screening kits to donate to their respective local health centers. For the 5K category, 25 kits were donated by the 1st place finisher, 20 kits by the 2nd placer, 15 kits by the 3rd, 10 kits by the 4th, and 5 kits by the 5th. For the 3K category, 20 kits were donated by the 1st place finisher, 16 kits by the 2nd, 12 kits by the 3rd, 8 kits by the 4th, and 4 kits by the 5th. And for the 500 meter category, 10 kits by the 1st placer, 8 kits by the 2nd, 6 kits by the 3rd, 4 kits by the 4th, and 2 kits by the 5th. *GBSamonte*

### Lanao del Norte Hosts Region 10 NSF Assembly 2015

The Annual Newborn Screening Facilities (NSFs) Assembly hosted NBS Coordinators from different government and private NSFs at the Mindanao Civic Center Hotel, Tubod, Lanao del Norte, on October 28-29, 2015.

The assembly gathered together provincial and city NBS coordinators of 5 provinces and 9 cities in Region 10.

Lanao del Norte Governor Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo delivered the welcome message, while Dr. Jamaica Dimaporo-Umpa, Lanao del Norte Provincial Health Officer, gave the opening message.

Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Newborn Screening Center–Mindanao Unit Head, presented the status of the NBS Program of Region 10 and addressed all questions about NBS implementation. Dr. Marie Patrice Cartajenas, pediatrician at Mayor Hilario A. Ramiro Sr. Regional Training Hospital, discussed the disorders that can be screened through the Expanded NBS. Participants also went in groups to visit Lanao del Norte Provincial Hospital, Rural Health Unit Tubod, Rural Health Unit Kapatagan, and Rural Health Unit Lala for observation of best practices in these facilities.

### NSC-Mindanao Conducts Free NBS in Davao City

Newborn Screening Center (NSC)–Mindanao continued the tradition of providing free newborn screening (NBS) to selected indigent patients as part of its NBS Week celebration at Brgy. Buda, Marilog District, Davao City, on October 9, 2015.

With the help of Buda Community Health Care Center (BCHCC), also known as German Doctors Hospital, 10 indigent babies were screened for free that day. Prior to blood collection, a lecture on newborn screening was conducted at the BCHCC lobby where 105 parents, guests, and hospital staff attended.

The activity was part of NSC-Mindanao’s plans to make newborn screening known and available to indigent babies living in the outskirts barangays in Davao City. *P.Bermudez*

### Cotabato Holds NBS Culmination Activity



Babies and parents who received free NBS during the activity

To cap off the entire month of newborn screening (NBS) advocacy promotions, Cotabato conducted a culmination activity on October 26, 2015.

The NBS Culmination Activity celebrated the success of NBS implementation in Cotabato through the efforts of Dr. Jerry Barredo and Cotabato Provincial DOH Officer Dr. Rubelita Aggallut. The celebration started with a motorcade from the Kidapawan Capitol Parking Area, which went around the city proper and ended at the JC Leisure Center, where the program was held.

An opening message from Dr. Eva Rabaya, Provincial Health Officer, began the program, and an inspirational message was given by City Mayor Joseph Evangelista who emphasized that well-nourished mothers and children mean good governance.

Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez, Newborn Screening Center–Mindanao Unit Head, reported on Caraga NBS performance and afterward headed the ceremonial newborn screening of five indigent babies.

The event gathered around 200 participants from the health and academic communities. *CFChiong*



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## NSC-CL Celebrates 5th Anniversary



Officers, staff, and guests of NSC-CL during its fifth anniversary celebration at AUF Sports and Cultural Center, Angeles City.

The Newborn Screening Center–Central Luzon (NSC-CL) celebrated its fifth anniversary in a simple ceremony held on October 20, 2015.

The ceremony included the blessing of the Center and a thanksgiving. Partners from different government agencies, regulatory and accrediting bodies, health institutions, Newborn Screening Centers, and laboratory suppliers graced the event.

In the afternoon, Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla, Chancellor of University of the Philippines Manila and founder of the Newborn Screening Program in the Philippines, gave a lecture on “The Current Status of the Newborn Screening Program in the Philippines: Planning for the Future,” which was held at

the Angeles University Foundation (AUF) Sports and Cultural Center, Angeles City.

The afternoon session was attended by more than 200 participants from the Newborn Screening Reference Center, Unit Heads of the Newborn Screening Centers, AUF Medical Center officials, pediatricians and OB-gynecologists in Pampanga, nurse and medical coordinators of NBS facilities in Pampanga, Region III NBS Continuity Clinic Nurse and Follow-up Head, and faculty members and students from the AUF School of Medicine, College of Nursing, and College of Allied Medical Professions. *NDelaCruz*

### DOH-RO 1 Joins Buntis Congress

The Provincial Health Office of Pangasinan, with the participation of Department of Health–Regional Office 1 and in cooperation with San Fabian Rural Health Unit, conducted Buntis Congress at the San Fabian Multipurpose Auditorium, San Fabian, Pangasinan, on August 28, 2015.

NBS Nurse Coordinator Marie Kris Lacuata discussed the significance of newborn screening (NBS) and the Expanded

NBS to 250 expectant mothers and 100 non-pregnant women.

Other topics discussed were pre-natal care, PhilHealth membership, breastfeeding, and newborn care, which were taken care of by the Provincial Health Office. In addition, a pageant called “Buntis Preggy” was also held. *MKLacuata*

Clipart by Karen Arnold from publicdomainpictures.net

## Central Luzon News Briefs

### DOH-CARO Celebrates NBS Week in Ifugao

The Department of Health–Cordillera Administrative Regional Office (DOH-CARO) celebrated the Newborn Screening (NBS) Week in the province of Ifugao to put emphasis on ensuring the availability and accessibility of NBS services in far-flung areas.

The celebration highlights the monitoring and assessment of regional NBS Coordinators of the Good News Clinic and the different Rural Health Units of Asipulo, Kiangan, Banaue, and Lamut to identify and resolve challenges in program implementation, which happened on October 26-27, 2015. The Expanded NBS (ENBS) program was also promoted to strengthen the support of health service providers assigned in these Newborn Screening Facilities (NSFs).

On October 28-29, in collaboration with the Provincial Health Office, two batches of NBS/ENBS Orientation for Frontline Health Service Providers were conducted in the Banaue Hotel and Bible Church Community Hall at Banaue and Lagawe, Ifugao, respectively. The event was attended by 100 midwives and 72 active barangay health workers.

Dr. Virginia L. Narciso, Head of Child and Adolescent Health Development Cluster of DOH-CARO, discussed the overview of NBS program, NBS situation, traditional and ENBS disorders, and the roles of the Community Health Team in NBS implementation. *VNarciso*

### DOH-RO 1 Holds G6PD Seminar for Health Professional

To aid health professionals in managing patients with G6PD Deficiency, the Department of Health–Regional Office 1 (DOH-RO 1), in cooperation with Newborn Screening Center–Central Luzon (NSC-CL) and Newborn Screening (NBS) Continuity Clinic, held a G6PD Seminar for Health Workers at Marand Resort and Spa, Bauang, La Union, on October 13-14, 2015.

Fifty-nine NBS Coordinators from various DOH Retained Hospitals, District Hospitals, and Rural Health Units from all over the region participated in the event.

Dr. Florencio Dizon discussed G6PD deficiency, confirmatory testing, monitoring of patients, and food and drugs to be avoided. Meanwhile, Dr. Mary Grace Padilla talked about proper counseling of families with confirmed positive of the disorder. Case presentations were also done and a demonstration of counseling was performed. Also, steps in implementing NBS and Expanded NBS were discussed by NSC-CL. *ADoctorero*

Dr. Florencio Dizon discusses G6PD deficiency.

### NSC-CL Seeks Best NBS Photo

Get your cameras ready!

As part of its celebration of Newborn Screening (NBS) Week, the Newborn Screening Center–Central Luzon (NSC-CL), together with the Department of Health–Regional Offices of Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, and the Cordilleras, launched the 2nd North and Central Luzon NBS Photo Contest in October 2015.

All Newborn Screening Facilities (NSFs) under the scope of the cluster were invited to submit one entry portraying the theme “Saving More Babies from Mental Retardation and Death with Expanded Newborn Screening” together with a one-paragraph interpretation of the photo. The photographer should also be an officially hired healthcare professional of the participating facility.



Photo by Petr Katochvil from publicdomainpictures.net

Selection of winners is regional. Three entries from each of Regions 1, 2, 3, and CAR will be chosen. The winning entry from each region will be featured in the NBS 2016 Calendar to be distributed to all NSFs.

Last year’s photo contest, with the theme “Screening with Compassion,” captured the significance of love and dedication of parents, healthcare practitioners, and other stakeholders who promote every newborn’s welfare. The winners per region in 2014 were Rural Health Unit–Anda, Pangasinan (Region 1), Dr. Ronald P. Guzman Medical Center (Region 2), Jecscons Medical Center (Region 3), and Rural Health Unit–Bucay (CAR). *NDelaCruz*



# VOLUNTEER YOUTH LEADERS FOR HEALTH

## 2nd Regional Youth Camp Welcomes Batch Hiraya

As part of its expansion, the Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health (VYLH) Philippines-CARAGA Region, in cooperation with Department of Health (DOH)-CARAGA Regional Office Caraga, City Health Office of Butuan, and Newborn Screening Center (NSC)-Mindanao, organized a youth camp to increase awareness on health issues at Veranda Beach Resort, Carmen, Agusan del Norte, on October 15-16, 2015.

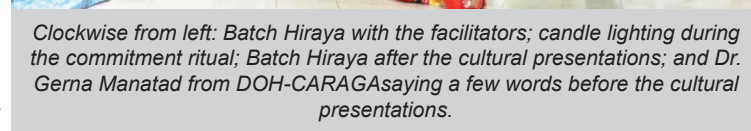
The camp, which is on its second year, also welcomed Batch Hiraya, the new set of VYLH volunteers composed of 28 participants from different organizations in the community and academe. The camp also hosted the Peer Educators Training and Workshop organized by the City Health Office of Butuan and DOH-CARAGA.

This year's activity highlighted the history of VYLH, youth empowerment, and the roles of

volunteers in advocating health issues. The current situation of the newborn screening program in CARAGA and how the new volunteers can achieve VYLH's advocacies were also presented. There were also lectures on newborn screening, expanded newborn screening, folic acid and rare disorders.

During the camp, Batch Hiraya prepared its action plans and presented it to the facilitators. On the night of the second day, the new volunteers went through a commitment ritual where they lit floating candles at the beach, followed by cultural presentations.

Overall, the camp was a colorful and productive experience for the new members of the VYLH family. Despite hailing from different walks of life and having diverse insights, the new volunteers would become catalysts of change and actors of the network's vision. *SPBaula*



Clockwise from left: Batch Hiraya with the facilitators; candle lighting during the commitment ritual; Batch Hiraya after the cultural presentations; and Dr. Gerna Manatad from DOH-CARAGA saying a few words before the cultural presentations.

## Central Luzon Boosts IEC Campaign

In celebration of Newborn Screening (NBS) Week, the Department of Health-Regional Office 3, in collaboration with the Newborn Screening Center-Central Luzon, held the 2nd Annual Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health (VYLH) Central Luzon Chapter Assembly at King's Royale Hotel and Resort, San Fernando City, Pampanga, on October 1-3, 2015.

Forty-one youth leaders from different colleges and universities in Central Luzon together with young professional nurses participated in creating information, education, and communication (IEC) materials for the promotion of the NBS program.

The workshop produced IECs such as brochures, slogans, posters, tarpaulins, billboards, and comic books. The best design for each category received sets of basic and expanded NBS kits to be given to their choice of Newborn Screening Facility in their respective provinces. These designs will

be developed and used as official promotional materials for Central Luzon.

The activity ended with the traditional rainstorm closing ceremony where participants pledged their commitment to uphold the advocacies and values of VYLH-Philippines. *RDione*



Participants to the 2nd Annual VYLH Central Luzon Chapter Assembly

## SPMC and NSC-Mindanao Team Up for NBS Week

The Newborn Screening Center (NSC)-Mindanao and Southern Philippines Medical Center worked together to celebrate this year's Newborn Screening (NBS) Week, highlighting 19 years of saving babies from mental retardation and death.

The NBS Week celebration included the display of NBS streamers and posters in strategic areas in the hospital and the looped daily audio-visual presentation on NBS and patient testimonies at the hospital's main lobby viewed from September 29 until October 9.

A series of lecture and ward classes were also conducted every day of that week, catering to almost 350 pregnant women, parents, and patients. Brochures on NBS were also distributed.

On the last day of the celebration, a two-hour interactive discussion was held at JICA Building on the Expanded NBS program and its panel of disorders. The discussion was attended by patients as well as healthcare practitioners. *ATadlas*



NBS Ward Class at SPMC OB Ward

## 1st Reunion of Saved Babies in Zamboanga Peninsula

The Department of Health-Regional Office 9 (DOH-RO 9) held its 1st Reunion of Saved Babies at the Grand Astoria Hotel, Zamboanga City, on October 13, 2015.

The event provided an opportunity for parents to raise issues and concerns on the management of their children's disorder.

A total of 84 parents and children participated in the event; among them were Yarmajer Salih, father of a child with G6PD deficiency, and Lorlina Valdenibro, mother of a child with congenital hypothyroidism disorder, who both gave testimonies on how they manage the conditions of their children.

The reunion was organized by the Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao and Newborn Screening Continuity Clinic of Zamboanga City Medical Center to promote camaraderie and support among the families of saved babies. *AJCalibot*



Parents and their children have fun during the Reunion of Saved Babies.

## Getting Up Close with Health Workers

To address the unsatisfactory samples and fast turnover rate of health workers, the Department of Health-Regional Office 1 (DOH-RO 1) conducted a series of on-site newborn screening (NBS) trainings.

From July to September 2015, DOH-RO 1 NBS Team held 12 on-site trainings to rural health units, district hospitals, and provincial hospitals, reaching a total of 304 health workers.



Health workers interact more closely during the on-site trainings.

Participants were oriented on Republic Act 9288, or the Newborn Screening Act of 2004, and its significance and implementation. The following were also discussed: NBS disorders, implementing NBS in a health facility, administrative mechanics of NSC-CL, and the implementation of Expanded NBS. Demonstrations on how to perform the heel-prick method were conducted.

Each on-site training was specific to the needs of each facility. As a result, issues such as shortage of NBS staff were addressed. The training also anticipated the increase in the number of NBS advocates and champions. *ADoctorero*

## DOH-RO 3 Conducts Regionwide ENBS Orientation

The Department of Health-Regional Office 3 conducted a regionwide orientation on Expanded Newborn Screening (ENBS) in collaboration with Newborn Screening Center-Central Luzon and PhilHealth Insurance Corporation.

A total of 457 Newborn Screening Facility Coordinators from 7 provinces in Central Luzon attended the orientation and pledged their support for the program.



Expanded NBS Orientation participants from Olongapo City, Zambales

### Your Feedback Is Important to Us!

Thank you for reading our newsletters!

We would love to hear your feedback. Please let us know how we can improve our bimonthly newsletters by answering our feedback form at [www.newbornscreening.ph](http://www.newbornscreening.ph).

If you would like to write an article, please contact us at [info@newbornscreening.ph](mailto:info@newbornscreening.ph). We will do our best to keep you informed about current and relevant newborn screening issues.



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## NATIONAL NEWBORN SCREENING AWARENESS WEEK

*Celebrating 19 years of saving babies from mental retardation and death*

Proclamation No. 540 declares the 1st week of October of each year as National Newborn Screening Week

## Program Advocates Celebrate Newborn Screening Awareness Week 2015

On January 20, 2004, through Proclamation No. 540, then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared the first week of October of every year as the National Newborn Screening Awareness Week. Since then, the Department of Health (DOH) and newborn screening program partners and program advocates committed to improve the quality of life of Filipino newborns and took on the responsibility of organizing the activities for the celebration.

The DOH, Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Inc. (NSSPI), Newborn Screening Centers (NSCs), DOH-Regional Offices, Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC), and Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health (VYLH), in partnership with various program advocates, conducted activities to increase public awareness on the benefits of and developments on the newborn screening program in the country.

On October 6-7, 2015, the NSSPI held a successful national convention dubbed "Enhancing Newborn Care, Nurturing Minds, Brightening the Future and Saving More Lives." It featured a series of scientific discourses from noted specialists in the country and gathered together over 1,600 health workers from both private and public sectors to discuss major issues affecting the realization of the goal of saving Filipino newborns from mental retardation and death. It was also held to celebrate the program's continued existence, progress, successes, and development made possible by the support of numerous

individuals and institutions.

In Mindanao, NSC-Mindanao, DOH-ROs, and newborn screening facilities celebrated NBS Awareness Week by organizing the following: motorcades, radio pluggings, reunion of saved babies, mini-Olympics, poster-making contests, fun run, and a series of lectures and NBS training.

Meanwhile, in Ilocos, Central, and Northern Luzon focused on the conduct of parent's forum and NBS trainings and the creation of IECs for the promotion of ENBS. NSC-CL and DOH-ROs I, II, III, and CAR held a photo contest with the theme "Saving More Babies from Mental Retardation and Death with ENBS."

In the Visayas region, a fun run was held in Cebu City, G6PD Congress in Iloilo City, Araw para kay Nanay in Tacloban City, and Reunion of Saved Babies in Bacolod City; brochures were distributed to other areas as well.

The celebration was also boosted on social media by the help and support of VYLH and Mommy Bloggers Philippines. Supporters changed their profile and cover photos to ENBS logo and NBS Week banner from October 1 to 7 on social media sites, and hashtag #NBSWeek was attached to their status updates.

Number of Babies Screened as of October 2015

COUNTER: 7,345,809