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Annex H-1.2

Ifugao *Ayod* Community Health Team

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(source: Guide for Ifugao *Ayod* Community Health Teams, 2008)

The Province of Ifugao is fortunate to be a recipient of grants from funding institutions for the improvement of health services. Among the province's development partners are the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Tropical Diseases Foundation-Global Fund Malaria Component Project (TDF-GFMCP), European Union-funded Technical Assistance for Health Sector Policy Support Program (EC-TA4HSP) and the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) of the Council for the Welfare of Children.

In 2006, JICA started implementing the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Project in the municipalities of Mayoyao, Aguinaldo and Alfonso Lista. One of the core activities of the project was the formation of Women's Health Teams based on the experience gained from the "Woman's Health and Safe Motherhood Project 2" of DOH/World Bank and Safe Motherhood Policy of DOH to strengthen health care delivery at the grassroots level. As a result, deliveries attended by skilled birth attendants (doctors, nurses and midwives) and facility based deliveries saw a marked increase. Moreover, the support of local officials and the community was strengthened.

Inspired by the success stories of the JICA-MCH Project, Ifugao Governor Teodoro B. Baguilat, Jr. issued Executive Orders 19 and 22 mandating the organization of Community Health Teams in each barangay throughout the province. In line with the province's cultural preservation thrust, these teams shall be known as Ifugao *Ayod* (Hammock) Community Health Teams (AHT).

Ayod refers to the hammock used to carry patients, parturient and any person who cannot ably walk. It is usually carried by two men at a time with other men as alternates, hence the two male volunteers. The male membership however doesn't only signify this concept, but it signifies a paradigm shift in "health care". Males should also be responsible for health care concerns of the family and of the community. It also needs synergy and teamwork to carry an *ayod* thus the word "team". It also signifies the concept of "health in the hands of the community".

The *Ayod* Community Health Teams were conceived as partners of the Province at the grassroots level to achieve better health outcomes and ultimately contribute to the realization of the MDGs, specifically MDG No. 5 or the reduction of maternal mortality ratio.

Being community-based, the *Ayod* Community Health Teams are envisioned to evolve into do-it-all community health organizations assuming expanded tasks and functions on health programs. Aside from maternal and child health concerns, the *Ayod* Community Health Teams shall assume other tasks such as: community

health education and promotion, malaria prevention, and in reproductive health advocacy. Cognizant of the shared responsibility between men and women, the Province commits itself to the development of the *Ayod* Community Health Teams into truly dynamic groups.

Local Government Units (province, municipality, and barangay) and development partners like JICA-MCH, UNFPA, EC-TA4HSP, TDF-GFMCP, and ECCD are one in forming and strengthening *Ayod* Community Health Teams all over the province.

General Overview of the *Ayod* Community Health Team

I. Composition

Chairperson	:	Barangay Captain
Co-chairperson	:	Rural Health Midwife
Members	:	Barangay Health Workers Barangay Nutrition Scholars Kagawad on Health 2 male volunteers 2 female volunteers Traditional Birth Attendants and/or trained hilots

II. Functions and Responsibilities

1. Conduct health promotion activities within the barangay (IEC, Advocacy on FOURmula One (F1) flagship programs);
2. Ensure that F1 Program projects and activities (PPAs) are integrated into the Barangay Development Plan;
3. Conduct parents' classes;
4. Conduct active listing and tracking of pregnant women in the barangay;
5. Assist couples in the preparation of birth plans;
6. Advise pregnant women to deliver in health facilities;
7. Report maternal and under-five deaths to the Municipal Health Office (MHO) ;
8. Make referrals to health facility or appropriate agency; and
9. Assist in malaria, dengue, TB, rabies and environmental sanitation activities.

III. Technical Assistance

The Provincial Health Office (PHO), in coordination with the MHO s and other health partners, shall:

1. Train the officers and members of the Ifugao *Ayod* Community Health Teams to perform their functions;

2. Devise a monitoring and evaluation system to track the impact of the Ifugao *Ayod* Community Health Teams in improving the health status of their respective barangays;
3. Document best practices of Ifugao *Ayod* Community Health Teams which can be replicated in other areas; and
4. Devise a reward system to recognize outstanding/performing Ifugao *Ayod* Community Health Teams during appropriate ceremonies.

The *Ayod* CHT shall subsume the functions of the GFMC initiated Barangay Action Team (Malaria and Dengue), UNFPA-initiated Barangay Health Committees, and the JICA-MCH initiated Women's Health Teams.

Specific Functions and Health Activities

- I. Maternal and Child Health Care Service Functions
- II. Reproductive Health (RH) services
- III. Outreach Activities
 - a. Blood Collection Day
 - b. Family Planning Day
 - c. Adolescent and Youth Camp
 - d. Others
- IV. Promotion of Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EONC) Facilities
- V. Malaria Control Program Services
- VI. Other Health Programs and Activities
 - a. Tuberculosis
 - b. Rabies
 - c. Dengue
 - d. Environmental Sanitation Activities