

**Best Practice Summary
Province of Sorsogon, Bicol City, Philippines**



Country:	Philippines
Local Government:	Province of Sorsogon
Type:	Municipality
Best Practice Title:	Bringing Health Services Right to the Shores
Aspect of Governance:	Thematic Area 3: Inclusive Urban Public Services
Reported By:	Galing Pook Foundation
Start Date:	1996
Website:	http://gwhs-stg02.i.gov.ph/~s2provofsorsogon/

Description:

Background

The Problem:

All of Sorsogon's towns, except for Irosin, are located along the coasts. Of the province's 541 barangays, 210 are located along the coasts and 161 are considered depressed. In this situation, the traditional method of clustering services in the provincial and municipal center and waiting for people to come has not been efficient. A different approach to their remote location needed another approach.

Sorsogon was considered one of the most depressed provinces in the country with a poverty incidence of 54.5%, malnutrition rate of 52%, unemployment

rate of 40.2% and annual family income of P4,397 per capita.

Results Achieved and Relevance to Public Life

The Programme:

The Sorsogon provincial government initiated the Provincial Floating Clinic (PFC) Program to reach out to poor people living along the province's coast. It is meant to last for three years, from 1998 to 2001. The program's aims are as follows:

- Provide a comprehensive and integrated health and medical services to isolated coastal and interior barangays;
- Establish and implement a cohesive and functional network with different humanitarian agencies;
- Empower the economically depressed barangays (local government units) and enable them to plan and manage their own health program and other related projects;
- Foster self-reliance and self-determination on health and other related issues and concerns;
- Integrate the expertise and resources of government agencies and NGOs in order to provide for the community health needs;
- Set up structures that would finance, operate and manage health development programs or render sustained technical, organizational, and material support to community-planned health projects intended to improve health security;
- Set up a radio communication network linking the barangays to the PFC radio communication center; and
- Contribute to the DOH's rich experiences in managing community health programs and its commitment to the use of partnership in improving people's health.

Main Features

- The floating clinic has features for minor surgery, emergency, paramedic services, health and sanitation education and community organizing.
- The program consists of nineteen (19) personnel, including two (2) rural health physicians, two (2) dentists, three (3) rural health nurses, one (1) medical technologists, one (1) x-ray technician, two (2) pharmacy supervisors, two (2) ambulance drivers, one (1) cook and two (2) utility workers.
- The floating clinic had an initial budget of P3.5 million, of which P1,333,072 was allocated to personnel services, P 1,796,928 to maintenance and operating expenses and P370,000 to capital outlay.
- It delivers types of services:
 - a. Preventive Services
 - b. Curative Services
 - c. Social Services

Activities

- Health education programs on disease identification and prevention conducted in every barangay.
- Offering a 24/7 equipped emergency ambulance service.
- The "Walking Blood Bank", which undertook blood typing, recording and donor documentation.
- Medical and dental consultation and treatment.
- Medical emergency rescue services.
- Delivering medicines at discounted rates through the "Botika sa

Barangay" Program.

- Organizing and training of a project management team.
- Providing discounted rice rates through a cooperative network with the National Food Authority (NFA).
- Assisting beneficiaries in accessing funds to be used as seed capital for their income generating projects.
- Free sound system rentals used for fund-raising activities such as benefit dances and raffles.

Results

- Already 24,933 persons were provided with medical services; 750 with dental services; 99,276 participated in health education programs; 425 people with referrals; and follow-up services to 24,933 patients. Field health investigation in 237 barangays was also conducted that benefited a total of 24,933.
- 4,037 bags of NFA rice were distributed to 88 depressed barangays and benefited 880 households.
- A total of 537 project officers and key leaders were trained in project implementation and financial management, including values orientation, community self-help and self-reliance, and people empowerment.
- Health associations were organized in 179 barangays located in 15 municipalities and involving a total of 895 officers and 716 members.

Lessons Learnt

The availability of basic health services has always been a problem for the poor. This program aimed to address the increasing health problems. Through the implementation of this project, the local government of Sorsogon acquired solutions to reach out to those living in the coastal communities.

Sustainability

After one and a half years of implementation, medical and dental services became more accessible in 88 remote coastal barangays and 160 inland barangays, medical services were provided to 69% of the total target population, health education session benefiting 65% of the target population were completed, and 489 persons comprising 163 women associations were organized and trained.

Transferability

The programme was deemed successful and gave Sorsogon Province a Galing Pook Award in 2002. Due to its fruitful outcome, it had been re-launched in March 2015. It coincided with the province reaching fifth place in the Kalusugan Pangkalahatan Award nationwide recently out of the 81 provinces participants rated by the Department of Health. The provincial government is giving importance to reaching out to the far-flung coastal areas of the province that are less attended in their health needs. The mobile floating clinic and mobile ambulance, is the answer of the administration of Governor Raul Lee to service the health needs of the coastal areas. Composed of doctors, nurses, dentist, midwives, medical technologist the mobile floating clinic on schedule conducts medical missions dispensing medicines, referrals and ferry medically impaired residents for adequate health services either to the district hospital nearest or in urgent cases to the provincial hospital for prompt medical attention. In most cases surplus medicines left over after their visit are left for the use of the barangay health center and advice is given to health seekers for immediate referrals to primary health care facility of the province.



