

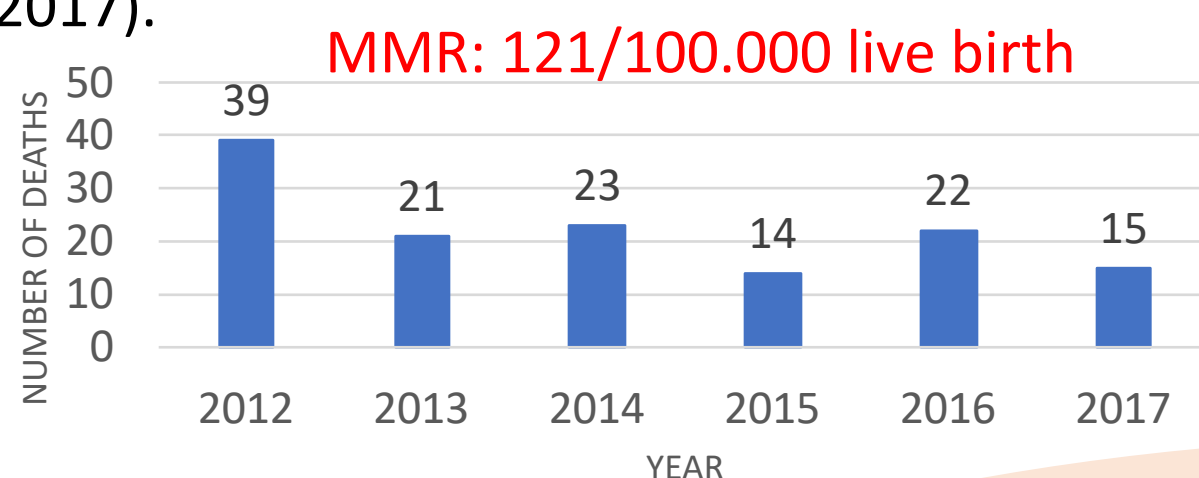


Lessons from the Field: Recasting Primary Health Care (PHC) – A PHC framework and roadmap design to strengthen local health systems to achieve Universal Health Care (UHC) in Northern Samar, Philippines

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Introduction

The Philippine healthcare system is very complex due to segmentation of public and private health providers, the devolution of public health facilities, multiple payment mechanisms, separation of public health from individual health care, and multiple vertical programs. Additionally, the geographical challenges with more than 7000 islands and natural hazards contribute to the complexity. The role of PHC is not fully utilized. Frequent by-passing of primary care and district hospitals led to overcrowding of provincial and DOH hospitals. Referrals from primary to tertiary care do not follow evidence-based guidelines, and standard operation procedures (SOP) (Tornquist and Lucas, 2017).



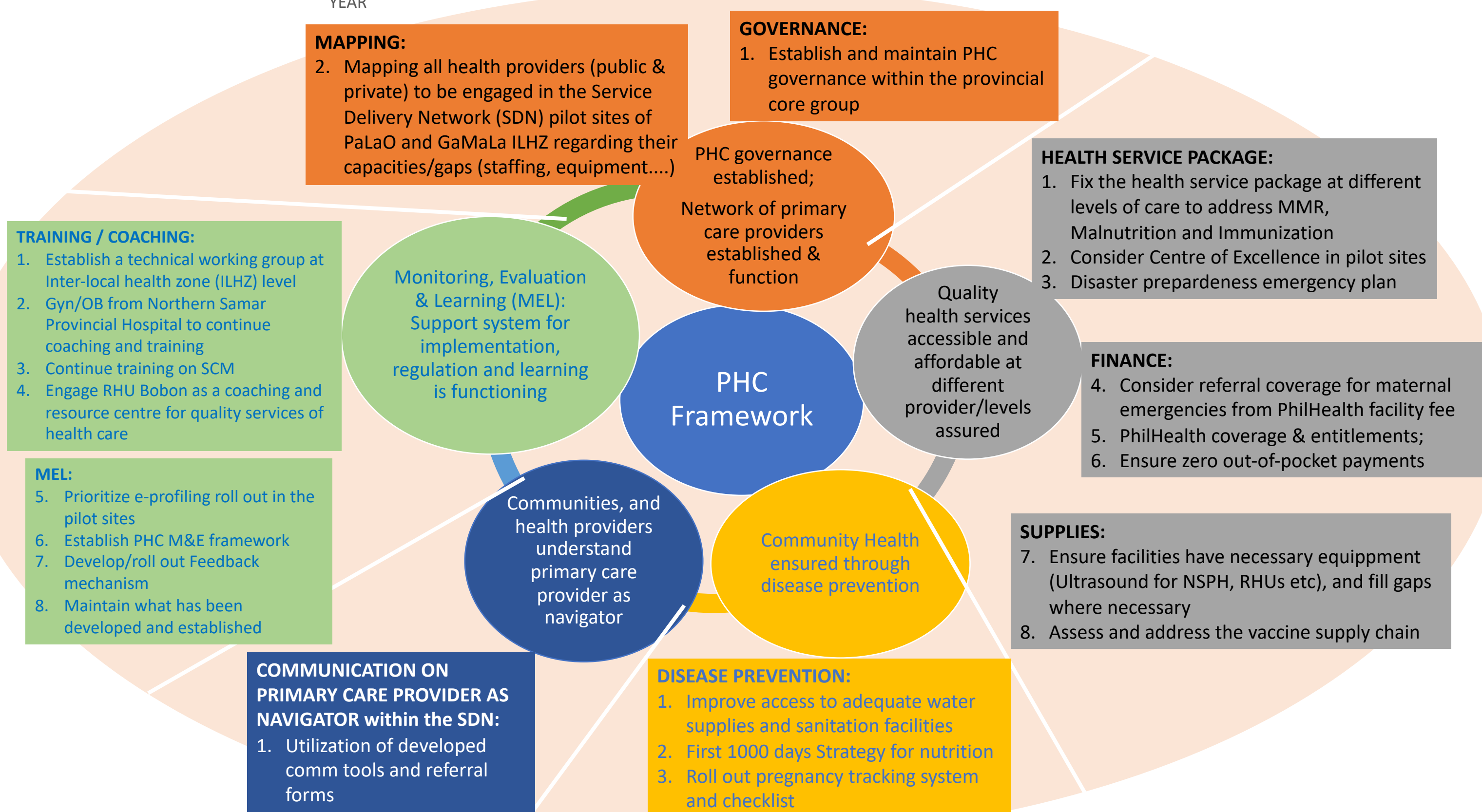
Overall objective

In line with the Primary Health Care guarantees, the project purpose was to develop a strategic PHC framework and related road map for scaling up a people centred and integrated primary care service.

Methodology

- Multi-expert team tasking
- Desk reviews / Lit. Review
- Key informant interviews
- Multi-consultative workshops with Dept. of Health; Dept. of Health Regional Office; National Insurance Company (PhilHealth); Governor; Health providers; Provincial Health Office; Provincial Dept. Of Health; Private sector
- Community involvement

Measles: 62%
OPV3: 65%
BCG: 76%
Hep B: 43%
Pentavalent Vacc: 80%



Lessons learned:

- ✓ Political will (DOH, PHO, PhilHealth) and readiness by health service providers is a major driver
- ✓ Listening to all stakeholders incl. communities, policy makers, health providers, suppliers, national health insurance company among others created a highly valuable driving platform to develop the PHC framework
- ✓ Selection of mature Inter-Local Health Zones (ILHZ) as pilot sites for integrated Service Delivery Network (SDN)

Recommendations:

- ✓ Ownership through meaningful engagement of all relevant stakeholders
- ✓ Phased approach: address low hanging fruits first for specific health outcomes (i.e. malnutrition, maternal health, immunization coverage)
- ✓ Engage national health insurance company
- ✓ Marketing communication strategy within DOH, local health service providers and communities