Country: Philippines, funded by Korea

Project Name: Integrated Nutrition and Health Actions in the First 1,000 Days of Life: Improving lives of vulnerable children and women in Samar, Northern Samar and Zamboanga del Norte, Philippines

Project Reach: 15 cities in Samar, Northern Samar; 4 cities in Zamboanga del Norte

Project Time Period: 02/2018 – 12/2021

Project Impact areas: Health; Food Security & Nutrition;

Project Funding: Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA);
- Six million U.S. Dollars (US$6,000,000) which includes: KOICA’s contribution to UNICEF: US$5,800,000 & KOICA project management funds: US$200,000

Project Website:

Project Description:

The project will (1) support the Government of Philippines at the national and local levels in implementing an integrated and comprehensive approach to the delivery of maternal, infant and child nutrition and health services in the critical first 1,000-day window (from a child’s conception to her or his first two years of life) by strengthening nutrition and health systems and improving access to services; and (2) contribute to meeting government’s commitments in scaling up nutrition (reduction of stunting).

OUTCOME 1: More responsive enabling policy and governance environment at the national and local levels that support the comprehensive approach to maternal, infant and child nutrition and health in the critical first 1,000 days window. Outcome 1 aims at supporting the process of identifying and implementing changes in policies so that government and partners can respond better to nutrition and health system challenges. In addition, this component focuses on putting in place actual policies and implementation strategies that will improve the governance environment for nutrition and health at both national and local levels. This is expected to lead in the prioritization of activities, increased investments and improved legislative framework for the First 1,000 days of life.

OUTCOME 2: Quality and comprehensive nutrition and health services for the first 1,000 days delivered to women, newborns and children in the project areas. Outcome 2 aims to improve capacity of local governments to deliver comprehensive nutrition and health services by strengthening Service Delivery Networks (SDNs). This will include strengthening of capacities of each health care facility in the SDN to improve the delivery of maternal, newborn and child nutrition and health. This component will contribute to meeting targets on the reduction of acute malnutrition, and improving micronutrient supplementation among pregnant women and children, infant and young child feeding practices, and antenatal care and immunization coverage.

OUTCOME 3: Improved knowledge, attitudes and practices of pregnant women, mothers/ caregivers in the 19 project areas on maternal and child nutrition and health. Outcome 3 aims to ensure that families, parents and caregivers, particularly the most marginalized, have access to evidence-based and inclusive social and
behavior change communication (SBCC) or communication for development (C4D) interventions through the provision of technical assistance to Local Government Units (LGUs) in strengthening SBCC plans and implementation.

Expected Results

- By 2021, at least 3 new national policies/plans/implementation strategies including national action plans/guidelines for nutrition and health are developed
- By 2021, at least 60% of the 19 target LGUs has a local policy and development plan on the first 1000 days
- From 2018 to 2021, increase by 10% the proportion of mothers who completed 4 prenatal check-ups in the 19 target LGUs
- From 2018 to 2021, increase by 10% the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in the 19 target LGUs
- By 2021, 75% of SAM discharges in the 19 target LGUs are cured
- By 2021, 80% of children in the 19 target LGUs are fully immunized
- From 2018 to 2021, increase by 10% the proportion of children 6-23 months old who were exclusively breastfed at 6 months in the 19 target LGUs
- From 2018 to 2021, increase by 10% the proportion of children 6-23 months old who meets the minimum acceptable diet
- From 2018 to 2021, increase by 10% the proportion of mothers and newborns who received postnatal care within 48 hours after childbirth in the 19 target LGUs

Legal Framework:
The project has been initiated upon signing the Grant Arrangement between the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the United Nations Children’s Fund in 2018

Program Evaluation:

Project progress will be monitored according to UNICEF rules and regulations through the use of regular review mechanisms against a set of implementation milestones. Monitoring will be continuous, involving data collection and assessment of the project’s field implementation and analysis of bottlenecks, and will involve key project staff meeting periodically to review operations and field implementation to assess whether new priorities require a shift in the project’s implementation. Quarterly program monitoring visits with KOICA is planned to be conducted at the different project sites.