

GOOD PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION

“Buntis Baby Bank: Para sa Kaligtasan ni Nanay at Baby”

A Good Practice on the convergence of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and the Local Government Unit of Limasawa, Southern Leyte, for pregnant women



CONTEXT

Health care is among the forefront demand for most of the Filipinos. It has direct impact to the well-being of every family and thus it has the same weight as poverty. Amongst the Filipino sectors, marginalized sectors are the ones vulnerable and are greatly affected when health care system is impaired. It is believed that since poverty is a multifaceted problem it is linked to various societal problems most especially in the field of health. Empirically poverty is vitally related and associated to health problem.

With the demand brought by the poverty which can be associated with health problem. The government created various platforms to improve the health situation in the Philippines. The challenge in improving health care system in the country continues to be on the top list of the governments work to be accomplished.

Although there is a significant improvement in the health care system, issues on maternal and child health continues to leave trail of concern and improvement. In one of the surveys of Philippine Statistics Authority it shows that there are 114 deaths/100,000 live births recorded, which is a significant figure to ponder on.

IMPLEMENTATION

Buntis Baby Bank is one of the programs for pregnant women in the island. Aside from the pre-natal care program and services offered by the Rural Health Unit, this Buntis Baby Bank is being implemented to help pregnant women and family defray the impending expenses before, during and after mother's delivery. The scheme of this Buntis Baby Bank is same as

with other saving practices but has no interest. One is given the chance to put any amount in a box assigned to a pregnant mother and they are encouraged to deposit any amount to it. And when the estimated date of confinement arrives the family will withdraw the money they saved in.



As this innovation became a good practice in the island every barangay health center adopted and implemented this to ensure that every family with pregnant woman will be equipped financially for the upcoming delivery. The

engagement of the family in the program is so easy. All they have to do is to deposit any amount in the assigned box. Perhaps this Buntis Baby Bank has to be sustainable for it has brought milestone in maternal and child health.

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) staff realized the significance of the Buntis Baby Bank and its sustainability for the nutrition and health of beneficiaries, especially the pregnant mothers. Hence, they coordinated and collaborated with the Municipal Inter-Agency Committee, to incorporate such practice in the implementation of 4Ps.



Approximately there are 2-4 pregnant mothers who are registered and monitored by the program every month. Since March 2019 all these pregnant mothers enrolled and engaged in Buntis Baby Bank with the supervision of the Rural Health Midwives managing the health center. So far all pregnant mothers who engaged in this practice had reaped remarkable benefits of the said practice.

The inception of the Buntis Baby Bank started on year 2009. The program has been long run practiced in the island. On its first 3 years of implementation the program garnered awards by the National Nutrition Council as this promotes well-being to the pregnant woman and the baby being born. Much of the award, the practice also soars as more and more pregnant women responsibly engage in it.

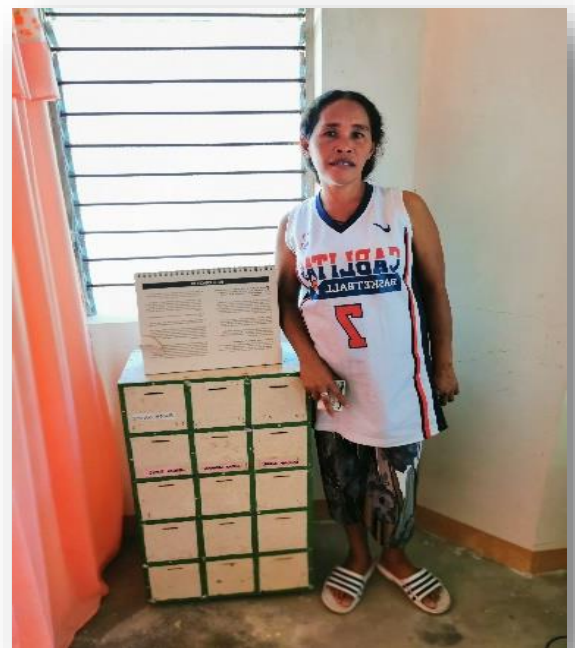


In year 2019, with the concern of having effective programs on health to the Pantawid Beneficiaries the

Municipal Inter-agency committee adopted the Buntis Baby Bank encouraging and requiring all pregnant mothers under Pantawid program to engage and enter into the said practice. The adoption of the said practice also includes its implementing mechanism.

Part of the engagement process is the municipal-wide advocacy information drive which encourages all families with pregnant mothers to engage to the said practice. The advocacy is done during various activity such as Family Development Sessions and even during barangay assembly. The barangay health center staff also headed by midwife track all pregnant mothers living in their respective barangay and once tracking is done, pregnant mothers are invited to attend mothers' class where initial engagement takes off. The initial engagement does not only focus on enrolling the pregnant mothers to Buntis Baby Bank this also serves as the avenue to discuss the emergency or birth plan. Mothers who attended the mothers' class who were informed with the Buntis Baby Bank and Birth plan are expected to discuss these to their husband/partner.

After a week the couple is expected to return to health center and be given with supplemental knowledge on Birth Plan and Buntis Baby Bank through the midwife and nurse on duty. As both parties agree to engage the said practice they will affix their signature to Buntis Baby Bank agreement form and likewise accomplish the birth plan. Once engagement becomes formal the staff of health center will introduce and assign a box to the pregnant mothers. This box will serve as their piggy bank where they are encourage to put any amount. When estimated date of confinement arrives the family is now authorize to withdraw the said money they saved through the course of pregnancy and use it for the delivery expenses. Implementation, Monitoring and securing the integrity of the Buntis Baby Bank will be done by the Rural Health Unit and the barangay health center staff.



Participants:

- Local Health Board members
- Pregnant and her family
- Municipal Inter-agency Committee
- Stakeholders and other Civil Society organization

Time Frame and Initiative of Implementation:

As soon as the pregnant mother and her family engaged and committed to join the said practice the activity takes off.

Activity	Timeline	Responsible
Recognition and adoption of Buntis Baby Bank as one good practice to be incorporated to the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program implementation.	During Municipal Inter-agency committee meeting	MIAC members
Information drive as advocacy of the Buntis Baby bank through FDS and barangay assembly	Conduct of information drive will take place once every semester	RHU staff
Identification and tracking of pregnant mothers.	Monthly	Barangay Health Worker Volunteer under the supervision of Rural Health Midwife.
Mother's Class	Monthly	RHU staff
Engagement of practice and counselling		

RESULTS/IMPACT

The Municipality of Limasawa continues to beacon the record of zero (0) maternal death since year 2015 up to the present. This was achieved through the synergy of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Limasawa, its people, and the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program. Their aspiration of becoming an island with zero (0) maternal death became a realization as Limasawa continues to generate and create more innovations.

LESSONS LEARNED

With the creation of the said practice one family with pregnant mother is given awareness that it is always important to plan and gather resources before the time of mother's delivery. Family is being equipped with such innovation to prevent possible financial problem as pregnancy delivery corresponds to economic burden. The practice also helps the health staff in ensuring safe mother delivery so maternal and neonatal death are prevented.

IMPLICATION FOR REPLICATION

The physical impact of the said practice is remarkable and should be replicated considering the health concern nowadays where maternal and child vulnerability increases. It has to be sustained and be practiced to raise the quality of care among mothers and children. Through the years the municipality of Limasawa implemented the said practice and it has brought significant help targeted constituents.



REFERENCES

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