Promoting Best Practices in the Philippines:  
Update and Dissemination of  
The Philippine Clinical Standards Manual on Family Planning, 2006

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JHPIEGO  An Affiliate of Johns Hopkins University  
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Family Planning Initiative  
Addressing unmet need for postpartum family planning
JHPIEGO, an affiliate of The Johns Hopkins University, builds global and local partnerships to enhance the quality of health care services for women and families around the world. JHPIEGO is a global leader in the creation of innovative and effective approaches to developing human resources for health. www.jhpiego.org

ACCESS-FP is an associate award under the ACCESS Program. ACCESS-FP focuses on meeting the family planning and reproductive health needs of women in the postpartum period. Interventions are designed to complement those of the ACCESS Program in the promotion and scale-up of postpartum family planning through community and clinical interventions. ACCESS-FP will reposition family planning through integration with maternal, newborn and child health programs, including the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

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Cover photo: Banner of *The Philippine Clinical Standards Manual on Family Planning* on the occasion of the National Launching and Stakeholders’ Meeting. Pasay City, 30 August 2006. Photo by the Department of Health.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

JHPIEGO received funding through the ACCESS-FP Program to assist the Philippines Department of Health (DOH) in revising its national resource document for family planning.

The Philippines DOH Reproductive Health/Family Planning Clinical Standards Manual is the national resource document for the implementation of the family planning program in the Philippines. There have been two editions, the last of which was prepared in 1997 through the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Since the last revision, there have been many new policy changes as well as changes in the World Health Organization (WHO) Medical Eligibility Criteria. The 1997 guidelines also did not filter down through the system and have an impact on service delivery practices, highlighting the need to address profound operational and policy barriers.

JHPIEGO worked with the Philippines DOH to effectively support the update and operationalization of the Philippines National Reproductive Health/Family Planning Guidelines. The result is an updated national family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH) guidelines document that is evidence-based and adheres to the latest WHO Medical Eligibility Criteria. A team of leading Filipino authorities on family planning, together with Drs. Ricky Lu and Cesar Maglaya from JHPIEGO, reviewed the technical content of the manual.

The manual received the full support and endorsement by the Secretary of Health.

Key results of the process included:

- National Launching and Stakeholders’ Meeting, which was attended by nearly 100 stakeholders from various groups
- Development and production of the manual (including a Facilitator’s Guide)
- Inclusion in the materials of sections on the importance of compliance to voluntarism and informed choice (requested by USAID/Philippines)
- Training of almost 300 regional and provincial trainers
- Action plans produced by regional and provincial teams for more than 3,000 service providers

The collaborative nature of the process is reflected in the cost-share mechanism that was used to cover the total costs for the above-mentioned activities. JHPIEGO provided key technical assistance as well as support to the core team of trainers while the DOH and the Local Government Units shouldered the participants’ costs to attend the dissemination activities. This collaborative effort allowed the DOH to reach all of the 13 regions and almost all of the 80 provinces in the Philippines.

BACKGROUND

Working in collaboration with the Department of Health (DOH) and its Technical Working Group, and the Social Acceptance Project (TSAP) led by the Academy for Educational Development, JHPIEGO supported the effort to revise the Philippine Clinical Standards Manual on Family Planning. With the closing down in mid-August 2006 of both the TSAP project and the Local Enhancement And Development for Health (LEAD) project led by Management Sciences for Health, there was an urgent need for a plan and resources to carry out a nationwide dissemination of the Clinical Standards Manual. The initial impetus for the development of the guidelines came from a joint visit to the Philippines in May 2005 by Maggie Usher, representing the World Health Organization’s (WHO’s) Implementing Best Practices Initiative and by Faizun Kamal of the Family Planning/Reproductive Health Center of Excellence at JHPIEGO (see Appendix A).

JHPIEGO, with its vast expertise in developing and disseminating guidelines in numerous countries worldwide, proposed to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Philippines and the DOH, through our global award ACCESS-FP, a process that involved both the launching and effective dissemination of the manual so that service delivery at the Local Government Unit level would benefit from the latest evidence-based family planning information included in the manual.

This report covers the main activities geared toward the national dissemination of the manual (see Appendix B):

- The National Launching and Stakeholders’ Meeting, held on 30 August 2006
- Development of the facilitation kit for trainers (see Appendix C)
- Preparation of a core team of experts
- Orientation training of facilitators and trainers

This report also details the key results achieved and challenges encountered during the launching and dissemination of The Philippine Clinical Standards Manual on Family Planning.

NATIONAL LAUNCHING AND STAKEHOLDERS’ MEETING

Preparation for National Launching and Stakeholders’ Meeting

The DOH was the overall organizer of the launching and stakeholders’ meeting for the manual. Along with TSAP and JHPIEGO, the DOH met numerous times to prepare for the launch. In preparation for the launching and stakeholders’ meeting, the major activities were:

- Development of the agenda for the meeting
- Development of presentation materials for the stakeholders’ meeting
Identification and invitation of participants, including the Center for Health Development (CHD) Directors, government organizations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), private sector entities and other USAID Cooperating Agencies

**Timeline of the Revision and Finalization Process**

From March 2005 through February 2006, the Technical Working Group drafted, reviewed and revised the manual. Once final revisions had been made, the technical editing was done. In March 2006, the manual was ready for field-testing. The prototype was field-tested in three regions of the country. The Technical Working Group reviewed the recommendations that came out of the field-testing and incorporated them with the manual. After a final presentation to the Executive Committee of the DOH and a last review by JHPIEGO and the local USAID Mission, the manual was finalized in July 2006. Preparatory activities were held for the launching ceremony, and the manual was finally launched in August 2006.

**Objectives**

The primary objectives of the launching and stakeholders’ meeting were to:

- Address the interests of and provide information to the Central DOH, CHD Directors, the Provincial Health Officials and other stakeholders in order to:
  - Promote understanding of “what is new” and how the manual differs from the previous edition.
  - Advocate for local commitment to implement the updated guidelines.
  - Discuss plans for involving the Local Government Units in the national dissemination effort.

Dr. Aye Aye Thwin, OPHIN Chief, USAID/Philippines, at the National Launching and Stakeholders’ Meeting
Inform the donor community, NGOs, private sector, academic community and other stakeholders about the 2006 edition of the manual.

Gain universal support for the manual from all groups in the Philippines involved in FP/RH, (e.g., The United Nations Population Fund, WHO, Department for International Development, etc.).

Present the national strategy for guidelines dissemination and come to consensus on how each stakeholder will support the implementation of the National FP Guidelines.

Advocate for donor support from different stakeholders for additional printing of the guidelines.

The National Launch and Stakeholders’ Meeting was held at the historic Heritage Hotel in Manila on 30 August 2006 (see Appendices D and E). There were about 100 guests who attended the launch meeting, including representatives of the national and regional directors of the DOH, provincial government offices, NGOs, professional groups, the donor community including UNFPA, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Asian Development Bank, WHO, USAID Cooperating Agencies and others. The complete list of the participants is on file at JHPIEGO.

Results

The meeting had the following results:

- The manual was fully supported and endorsed by the Secretary of Health (as delivered in the speech by the Undersecretary of Health, Dr. Ethelyn Nieto, on behalf of The Honorable Francisco T. Duque, III, Secretary, DOH).

- All key stakeholders in FP/RH received a copy of the updated manual.
All present pledged their support for the manual, its dissemination and utilization by providers by ceremonially signing the banner of supporters.

**ORIENTATION TRAINING ACTIVITIES**

**Objectives**
The assessment of the 1997 edition of the FP Clinical Standards Manual pointed out the following concerns:

- There was an inadequate distribution of the manual, with four out of 10 health facilities not having a copy of it.
- There was a staggered distribution of the manual, which resulting in severe delays in service providers receiving it.
- There was a lack of orientation on the use of the manual; service providers who did receive a copy of the manual were not trained on how to use it.

To address these concerns and avoid repeating the same mistakes, JHPIEGO prepared a dissemination strategy with the goal of nationwide coverage to not only make the updated manual available but also to introduce it to service providers. The strategy was to rapidly update clinical trainers at the regional and provincial levels to the new FP/RH guidelines so that they, in turn, will use the manual in their routine training and follow-up activities. To implement this strategy, JHPIEGO and the DOH collaborated to prepare a core team of trainers who developed a standardized orientation kit to train regional and provincial level clinical trainers. The core team will, in turn, break into smaller training teams to conduct training at the regional level over a period of 1–1½ months. The orientation trainings are expected also to include action planning sessions for provinces to begin mapping out their roll-out update training for service providers.

To effectively implement the nationwide use of the manual, a DOH core team of trainers was formed to conduct a training of facilitators. Overall, 10 batches of trainings were conducted nationwide. The primary objective was to train regional and provincial trainers to orient service providers at the Local Government Unit level in the use of the manual at their respective health facilities. Appendix F provides more details on this activity.

**Meetings of the Core Trainers**
The core team of trainers consisted of 12 members coming from the Technical Working Group, Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital (a DOH Training Hospital) and the Central DOH. The core team conducted a series of orientation meetings to formulate the goals and objectives of the orientation training. Subsequent meetings were then held to design and develop the orientation training package, schedules of each training activity and selection of the training participants. The core team also developed the Facilitator’s Guide, which was used during the orientation training to guide each session and finalize the recommended methodologies.
Design and Development of the Orientation Training Package by the National Core Trainers

The major task under this activity was the design and development of the Facilitator’s Guide. The purpose of this Guide is to provide a standardized approach to preparing the regional and provincial trainers to update their service providers. The Facilitator’s Guide consists of the orientation package for the three-day training of facilitators and service providers. The core team provided input into the preparation of the technical content of these orientation training materials.

In response to feedback from the USAID/Philippines Mission, the core team strengthened the Guide to include information and session activities focusing on the importance of compliance to voluntarism and informed choice.

The package also included PowerPoint presentation materials for use during training. These were produced in both hard copy and CD-ROM formats. JHPIEGO, through the ACCESS-FP award, funded its reproduction.

Development of the Facilitator’s Guide by the National Core Training Team

Over the course of 2 months, the core team developed the Facilitator’s Guide. It was a collaborative process, with the team meeting at the DOH instead of a rented venue. This was part of the cost-share commitment to which the groups actively adhered during the whole process.

The Guide, as an evolving document, had necessary changes both in format and content. One of the major changes that was made was the incorporation of the informed choice and voluntarism principles in several sessions of the Guide. Based on a request from the local USAID Mission, the group reworked the Facilitator’s Guide to include sections on the importance of compliance to voluntarism and informed choice.

Editing of the Guide

Two of the core team members were tasked with editing the Facilitator’s Guide developed by the core team. The core team reviewed the edits and made suggestions and comments. Final edits were made to ready the Guide for printing.

Printing of the Guide

JHPIEGO, through the ACCESS-FP award, funded the printing of 250 copies of the Guide.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Several major accomplishments resulted from the orientation training of the clinical standards manual, including:

- The orientation training of facilitators covered all 12 regions (CHDs) of the country, including a total of about 76 provinces and about 39 cities. At the municipality level, approximately 1,500 rural health units will be covered by these facilitators during the roll out of the orientation to service providers.

- The participants were not only oriented to the revised manual but were also given comprehensive clinical updates.
• The representatives of the regions and provinces concluded the training with concrete action plans for more than 3,000 service providers.

FUNDING LEVERAGED

For each of the major activities implemented including the National Stakeholders’ Meeting, preparation of the Facilitator’s Guide and the training of regional and Provincial Health Office trainers, funds were actively leveraged to maximize impact and reach.

Overall, the DOH shouldered various costs related to venue, hotel accommodation, land transportation for participants and training supplies totaling about $30,000.00.

IMMEDIATE FUTURE NEEDS

The following needs are expected to be supported by the new USAID bilateral project in the Philippines (Health Sector Development Program—Local Government Unit Systems Strengthening HSDP/LGU):

• Clinical training updates are needed to ensure that providers have the most up-to-date and medically accurate information.

• Additional funds are needed by the DOH for the roll-out orientation of service providers.

• The current DOH Competency-Based Training on Family Planning (CBT/FP) manual should be reviewed and revised using the Clinical Standards Manual as the reference.

FINAL OUTPUTS

• The 2006 version of The Philippine Clinical Standards Manual on Family Planning

• The Facilitator’s Guide, which consists of the orientation package for the three-day training of facilitators and service providers
APPENDIX A

PRELIMINARY ACTIVITIES

The WHO Department of Reproductive Health and Research (WHO/RHR) leads a collaborative network of 26 international agencies, including USAID and UNFPA, known as the Implementing Best Practices (IBP) Initiative. The WHO/RHR Secretariat of the IBP Initiative (Maggie Usher) was requested to undertake a joint mission with IBP Initiative member Faizun Kamal, of JHPIEGO/Baltimore, to the Philippines.

The purpose of the mission was to discuss with key stakeholders and assess the feasibility of developing a multisectoral strategy to support the updating, finalization and dissemination of the DOH’s *Philippine Clinical Standards Manual on Family Planning*.

This joint mission was undertaken 16–21 May 2005. It involved meeting key representatives from the DOH Technical Working Group, donor and local organizations working in the field of family planning, WHO Country Office, WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO), United Nations Population Fund, GTZ, World Bank, LEAD for Health, Academy for Educational Development, USAID and JHPIEGO/Philippines.

As a result of this mission, JHPIEGO met with the DOH and TSAP to develop a consensus-building process with key stakeholders focused on identifying:

- What needed to change in the current guidelines, and why (review of the evidence and implications for change).
- What was missing from a technical/policy and practice perspective.
- How these changes would have an impact on service delivery—policy, practice, the infrastructure, client provider interaction and organization of work.
- What the materials would look like. Were any additional materials and tools required? What could be adapted from existing materials and tools?
- How the guidelines would be finalized; what the internal and external review process would be.
- How we could avoid the standard cascade training process and support taking these guidelines into practice in a way that worked with local government counterparts to address managerial, operational and performance improvement issues through a more organic and sustainable process.

The outcomes of this stakeholder consultative process informed the work of the Technical Working Group and the DOH. The above-mentioned steps laid the foundation for the subsequent collaboration, led by JHPIEGO, which resulted in the updating, finalization and dissemination of *The Philippine Clinical Standards Manual on Family Planning*. 

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Philippine Clinical Standards Manual for Family Planning

2006 Edition
APPENDIX D

PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL LAUNCHING AND STAKEHOLDERS’ MEETING OF
THE PHILIPPINE CLINICAL STANDARDS MANUAL ON FAMILY PLANNING

The 2006 Philippine Clinical Standards Manual on Family Planning

National Launching & Stakeholders’ Meeting
Heritage Hotel, Pasay City
- August 30, 2006, 9:00 am – 12:30 PM

This serves as an invitation
# National Launching & Stakeholders’ Meeting of the Philippine Clinical Standards Manual on Family Planning

**Heritage Hotel, Pasay City**  
**August 30, 2006**

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| 10:00-10:20 AM | Opening Ceremonies  
- Invocation  
- National Anthem  
- Opening Remarks | DOH Choir  
-do-  
Dr. Yolanda E. Oliveros  
*Director IV, NCDPC* |
| 10:20-10:40 AM | Presentation of the  
2006 Philippine Clinical Standards Manual on Family Planning | Dr. Ethelyn P. Nieto  
*Undersecretary, DOH* |
| 10:40-11:00 AM | Inspirational Message                                               | Dr. Aye Aye Thwin  
*Chief, OPHN - USAID* |
| 11:00 – 11:20  | Inspirational Message                                               | Hon. Francisco T. Duque, III  
*Secretary of Health* |
| 11:20-12:05 AM | Pledge of Support / Endorsement                                      | Representatives / Stakeholders       |
| 12:05-12:30 PM | Dissemination Plan                                                   | Dr. Honorata L. Catibog  
*Director III, NCDPC* |
| 12:30 - 1:30 PM | LUNCH                                                               | **Dr. Florence Apale & Dr. Cesar Maglaya**  
*Emcees* |

Good morning. Today we take another big step in strengthening the Family Planning Program in the country. After more than a year of bringing together all of our hard work... and after setting bolder directions for family planning services in the Philippines, we are finally launching the revised edition of the Clinical Standards Manual of Family Planning.

We are privileged to share this achievement with our partners and all the stakeholders in the provision of quality FP services in the country. Today, we formally announce that the Manual is ready for wider use... ready for dissemination!

We have not put this event all together merely for formality’s sake. We believe that this launching ceremony means a lot more than that. This event really stands for three important things which we are actively pursuing in the Department of Health.

First, the launching of the enhanced Clinical Standards Manual is a declaration of the DOH’s continuing and expanding effort to help our local governments in delivering quality FP services. Because broader support is greatly needed as we gear towards increasing self-reliance and self-determination in making decisions on local family planning programs.

More than that, this Manual is a clear testament of our adherence to high standards of quality care... our commitment to providing services based on evidence and accurate information... and our pledge to enhance and upgrade our tools while keeping pace with new technologies and changing international standards.

Anchored to the strategic approach of the Formula One (F1) for Health, the 2006 Philippine FP Clinical Standards is an effort towards our goal of bringing precise, effective and timely health intervention. As we launch the FP Manual today, I hope that you will appreciate the DOH’s continuing commitment to make the Family Planning Program more responsive to the needs of families... of service providers as they assist our people to make their informed voluntary decisions and to meet their individual and family health needs.

Second, today’s event really marks that a new product has been developed... and that product has already passed the litmus test for quality and responsiveness to the needs of Filipino couples and their families. This new product is now being launched bravely into the market.

Creating this product and bringing it now to its marketable form reminds me of the relentless efforts... the tremendous resources... and the impressive commitment that went into its development. Allow me then to warmly recognize the various organizations and individuals who have helped us in making this final product.

I would like to mention particularly the members of the Technical Working Group who have taken the painstaking job of writing, reviewing and revising the outdated 1997 edition of the FP Clinical Standards
Thank you for your wisdom, your vision, your technical expertise, your time and commitment in making this Manual truly a credible, user-friendly and useful reference for our field providers.

A lot of recognition should also go to USAID through “The Social Acceptance Project for Family Planning of AED,” which provided us with the needed technical and financial assistance in the process of the revision of the manual, and through ACCESS-FP, JHPIEGO; without its valuable support this national launching and stakeholders’ meeting would remain a wish at best, and we would be unable to come up with the well-planned dissemination activities and training package.

Last but not least, I would like to take my time and recognize also the commitment and efforts of my own staff under the leadership of Undersecretary Ethelyn Nieto, who provided the policy directions and the overall coordination in producing this Manual.

Now we come to my third and final point: Let us remember that everything doesn’t end with this final launching. This is just the end of product development. But this very well sets off the beginning of the real task ahead. In truth, we’re only halfway done. We still have to pull off a mile-long stretch of tasks ahead.

While we have developed the FP Manual, the greater challenge is for the Manual to reach the hands of our service providers and to translate practice standards into action. We can do this with proper dissemination and regular monitoring of its use.

To date, we have printed only about 2,000 copies of the Manual. We hope that we can give at least a copy each to all barangay health stations, rural health units and all our hospitals. We also plan to circulate the Manual to the private sector by giving them an initial copy and then allowing them to participate by buying more for the rest of the private service providers.

In the next two months, we are deemed to conduct trainings for a core of regional/provincial facilitators. They shall later be tasked to hold a cascade of orientation seminars for service providers in their respective areas. But we need further support to make this possible. As we have learned from the past, regular and effective monitoring on the utilization of the Manual is a formidable challenge because we’re referring to all levels of operation. Support for this is definitely paramount.

The Department of Health recognizes that the task ahead to promote and expand Family Planning services will not be easy. With our limited resources, the challenge in fact becomes even more daunting. And we know that confronting this challenge means seeking help and partnering with other movers of the Family Planning Program. Your presence here today gives us hope that we will not trek this journey alone. We certainly hope that your participation today is not a mere mechanical response that will eventually wear off, but a definite statement of your promise that you will always be counted in.

To our partners in health—this Manual is our achievement. This is for all of us. Continue to join us in steering better health for our nation by providing the best FP services and care for all Filipino families.

Please indicate your continued endorsement and support to the FP manual by placing your signature later on the tarpaulin. I thank you all for being here today. Mabuhay tayong labat.
## APPENDIX F

### REGIONS/PROVINCES AND CITIES COVERED BY THE ORIENTATION TRAINING OF FACILITATORS

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<th>Regions/Centers for Health Development (CHDs)</th>
<th>76 Provinces and 39 Cities</th>
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<th>Teams</th>
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<td>All teams (Pilot )</td>
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<td>Aug 30–Sept 2</td>
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<td>Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Dagupan City and 1 UNFPA (Luzon)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>CHD II</td>
<td>Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, Nueva Viscaya,</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Baguio</td>
<td>Oct 3–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHD III</td>
<td>Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Aurora, Cabanatuan City, San Jose City, Angeles City, Olongapo City</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>CHD IV A</td>
<td>CALABARZON- Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon, Rizal, Lucena City</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>Manila</td>
<td>Sept 4–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHD IV B</td>
<td>MIMAROPA- Minduduque, Mindoro Oriental, Mindoro Occidental, Palawan, Romblon</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>CHD V</td>
<td>Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate, Sorsogon, Naga City</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>Legaspi</td>
<td>Sept 19–21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NCR</td>
<td>Las Pinas City, Muntinglupa City, Paraanque and Batanes</td>
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<td>CHD VII</td>
<td>Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Cebu City</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Cebu</td>
<td>Sept 5–7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHD VIII</td>
<td>Northern Leyte, Southern Leyte, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Western Samar, Biliran, Tacloban City</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>CHD VI</td>
<td>Guimaras, Negros Occidental, Bacolod City, Aklan, Capiz, Antique, Iloilo province and city and 1 UNFPA (Visayas)</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Iloilo</td>
<td>Oct 3–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batches</td>
<td>Regions/Centers for Health Development (CHDs)</td>
<td>76 Provinces and 39 Cities</td>
<td>Total Participants 309</td>
<td>Teams</td>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Dates</td>
</tr>
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<td>8</td>
<td>CHD X</td>
<td>Bukidnon, Camiguin, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Cagayan de Oro City, Lanao del Norte, Iligan City</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Cagayan de Oro</td>
<td>Sept 12–14</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>CARAGA</td>
<td>Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Butuan City</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>CHD IX</td>
<td>Zamboanga Norte, Zamboanga Sur, Zamboanga City, Zamboanga Sibugay, Isabela City,</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Davao</td>
<td>Sept 27–29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)</td>
<td>Lanao Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>CHD XI</td>
<td>Davao Norte, Davao Sur, Davao Oriental, Davao City, Compostela Valley</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>Davao</td>
<td>Sept 27–29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>CHD XII</td>
<td>North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, Gen. Santos City, Cotabato City</td>
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