

TUFH 2020 Abstracts

| Title | Incentivizing Community Health Capacity in Bataan Province, Philippines |
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| Туре | Oral Presentation Working with Underserved Populations towards Community Empowerment |
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| Content | Universal health care can be achieved through incentivizing communities in disease prevention. Globally, various incentive programs have targeted both health workers and patients. The Provincial Government in Bataan Province, Philippines implemented a community incentive program for village leaders to implement public health actions towards health outcomes improvement. Once key health indicators are achieved, the provincial government provides monetary incentives to the village government which are used to implement health projects. This study undertook a rapid qualitative assessment to assess the program's initial progress. Focus group discussions and key informant interviews were undertaken with village leaders and health workers, municipal mayors, the provincial governor and the provincial health office. Experiences in four villages in two municipalities were observed - two of the villages were constantly achieving incentives, while two had not yet achieved the program outcomes. The study showed that the community monetary incentive program contributed towards community leader empowerment and capacity building in public health. To receive program incentives, local leadership mobilised themselves and their communities. They implemented community measures such as vector control against dengue and hypertension reduction activities, leading to increased health knowledge and positive behaviours. However, income-poor villages cannot raise enough funds to implement health activities. Thus income-poor villages cannot achieve key health outcomes. The study analysis showed that the incentive program rewarded those who have the means to implement programs, thus recommendations were for the incentive program to be more inclusive in its criteria by rewarding progress rather than outright achievement of key outcome targets. |