

Terminal Evaluation

Asia

1. Outline of the Project

Country:

the Philippines

Project title:

National Tuberculosis Program

Issue/Sector:

Health

Cooperation scheme:

In-country Training

Division in charge:

Southeast Asia Division, Regional Department I(Southeast Asia and Indo-China)

Total cost:

15 million yen

Period of Cooperation

Fiscal Years 1999 - 2003

Partner Country's Implementing Organization:

Department of Health (DOH)

Supporting Organization in Japan:

The Research Institute of Tuberculosis Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association,
Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association

Related Cooperation:

Project-type technical cooperation; "the DOH-JICA Public Health Project"

Project-type technical cooperation; "Tuberculosis Control Project in the Philippines"

1-1 Background of the Project

The Philippines has been one of those countries that are suffering from the spread of tuberculosis (TB) in the world. According to statistics issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), the prevalence of TB was 314 out of 100,000 people in 1999, which is second to Cambodia in the Asia Pacific area. The Department of Health (DOH) listed TB as the sixth major cause of death in 1997 in the Philippines.

The JICA has consistently implemented technical cooperation to the Philippines for anti-TB measures through "the DOH-JICA Public Health Project (1992 - 1997)" and "Tuberculosis Control Project in the Philippines (1997 - 2002)". Under these circumstances, the Government of the Philippines requested the Government of Japan for the support for In-country Training with the aim of further information dissemination and technology transfer among related Filipino health workers. The project also aimed at improving accuracy of sputum-smear examinations (SSE) nationwide, which is key to effective implementation of the DOTS (WHO's strategy to control TB which is based on case detection by sputum smear microscopy and treatment by directly observed treatment - short course chemotherapy).

1-2 Project Overview

To reduce the prevalence of TB in the Philippines, the project implemented training for two groups: the microscopists under the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP) performing the SSE daily, and the senior microscopists in the area who provide the above-mentioned microscopists with the technical support.

(1) Overall Goal

High quality examination services are established in the Tuberculosis Control Project in the Philippines.

(2) Project Purpose

Tuberculosis examinations are continuously improved at the Rural Health Units located in areas other than those supported by the JICA 'Tuberculosis Control Project'.

(5) Sustainability

The sustainability of the training effect can be observed as many of the participants were still engaged in the SSE at the time of terminal evaluation. However, even though the participants indicated that the local governments where the participants worked for had prioritized the anti-TB measures, the some of the governments failed to allocate the budget to continue the SSE or tuberculosis campaigns. The implementing organizations may not be able to continue similar training without the financial support from other aid institutions.

3-2 Factors that promoted realization of effects

(1) Factors Concerning the Planning

The government of the Philippines put high priority on the anti-TB measures, and thus the Philippines were actively involved in the training.

(2) Factors concerning the Implementation Process

DOH had sufficient capacity necessary for implementing the training through the accumulated experience in the past.

3-3 Factors that impeded realization of effects

(1) Factors Concerning the Planning

N/A

(2) Factors concerning the Implementation Process

Because of the weakness in administration in some of the local governments, supply of necessary consumables for SSE was unstable.

3-4 Conclusion

The training contributed to the improvement of the knowledge and techniques of microscopists engaged in health services and, as a result, led to the enhancement of SSE at rural health units. The application of attained knowledge and techniques at their respective workplaces depended not only on the willingness of each participant but also on the environment of their respective working places. The lack of equipment and consumables may decrease the chance of application of the acquired knowledge and techniques.

3-5 Recommendations

The Philippine Government should continue similar training because the anti-TB measure is still one of the prime tasks in the field of public health, and training needs remain high. The JICA should consider the possibility of continuing the support system of the training.

3-6 Lessons Learned

It is essential to have local governments actively involved in the training to let the output of the training to produce concrete effects. There still remains room to consider the method of selecting participants, and select more participants from the region whose local government shows support and is proactively engaged with the project.

3-7 Follow-up Situation

Upon recommendation, in-country training has been implemented as a part of the Project-type Technical Cooperation; "Quality Tuberculosis Control Programme" (September 2002 - August 2007).