FILARIASIS ELIMINATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

Jaime Z. Galvez Tan, MD, MPH
Chairman, CCELF-NTD
LF in the Philippines

- 2nd Leading Cause of Permanent Disability
National Magnitude

• **44 endemic provinces** in 12 regions (76% belong to 4th-6th class municipalities)

• *Prevalence of Microfilaremia /MF Rate Baseline (1998):* 9.7 %

• **645,232** Filipinos infected with LF (2005)

• **30 M** Filipinos are at risk of the disease

COALITION FOR THE CONTROL AND ELIMINATION OF LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS AND OTHER NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES, INC.
Conceptualizing CELF

GLOBAL SCALE:
- The Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GPELF)
  - Launched by the World Health Organization (WHO) (in partnership with GlaxoSmithKline) in year 1998 held at Geneva
  - Following advances in diagnosis and treatment on LF through years of scientific research, classifying it in 1997 as eradicable or potentially eradicable.
  - Calling all 72 signed states (including Philippines) to initiate steps in eliminating LF as a public health problem
GLOBAL SCALE:

• The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELF)
  • Formed in **2000 at a meeting in Spain** in response to the World Health Organization (WHO)’s GPELF
  • Proposing a **public-private partnership** among leaders of the LF Community
  • Partners included: *The Spanish Government, UK Department for International Development (DFID), The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck & Co., Inc., the World Bank, WHO, and various NGOs*
Conceptualizing CELF

NATIONAL SCALE:

- The Department of Health (DOH):
  - Initiated efforts for LF elimination in 2000
  - Full-scale implementation started 2002
  - Firstly focused on a **nationwide-scale of elimination** using **mass drug administration**
    - Not all areas were receptive of the program (observing active and passive participation of local stakeholders)
  - Shifted its strategy focusing to **local levels (regional and provincial)** for a more participative and effective approach, declaring **pockets of areas** as **LF-free**
Conceptualizing CELF

NATIONAL SCALE:
DOH: National Filariasis Elimination Program (NFEP)

Goal: To eliminate LF as a public health problem in the Philippines by year 2018.

Objective: To decrease the prevalence rate of filariasis in 44 endemic municipalities of the Philippines to <1/1000 population by year 2018.
Conceptualizing CELF

NATIONAL SCALE:
DOH: NFEP Strategies:

• STRATEGY 1. Endemic Mapping
• STRATEGY 2. Capability Building
• STRATEGY 3. Mass Treatment
• STRATEGY 4. Support Control
• STRATEGY 5. Monitoring and Supervision
• STRATEGY 6. Evaluation
• STRATEGY 7. National Certification
• STRATEGY 8. International Certification
Conceptualizing CELF

NATIONAL SCALE:

• The Coalition for the Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (CELF) (2004):
  • In response to the call of GAELF in creating a local entity to assist in LF elimination efforts
  • In response to DOH’s national program on ELF, CELF Philippines shall ensure the success of the implementation by synchronizing the efforts of both national and local units.
  • It is a non-stock, non-profit organization that envisions a LF-Free Philippines by 2018.
  • It serves as a liaison for groups that are involved or interested in the elimination of LF.
Conceptualizing CELF

NATIONAL SCALE:

• CELF Partners: 27 organizations (and counting)
  • Department of Health (DOH)
  • University of the Philippines Manila
  • GSK Foundation Philippines, Inc.
  • Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM)
  • Department of Education (DepEd)
  • Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (PSMID)
  • Philippine General Hospital Society of Infectious Diseases
  • National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP)
  • Give Kare Foundation
  • Foundation for the Advancement of Clinical Epidemiology (FACE)
  • University of the Philippines Manila Ugnayan ng Pahinungod
  • Philippine Information Agency (PIA)
  • Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP)
  • Mercury Drug Foundation
  • GMA Kapuso Foundation
  • Metrobank Foundation
  • Philnico Corporations, Inc.
  • Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)
  • Philippine Urological Association
  • Physicians for Peace Philippines
  • Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists (PSA)
  • Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program (PACAP)
  • Misamis Occidental Integrated Provincial Health Office
  • League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP)
  • Leagues of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP)
  • League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)
  • Liga ng mga Barangay

COALITION FOR THE CONTROL AND ELIMINATION OF LYMPHATIC FILARISIS AND OTHER NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES, INC.
Conceptualizing CELF

NATIONAL SCALE:

• CELF Activities:
  • Advocacy, Communication, and Social Mobilization
    • Health education and promotion activities through seminars, workshops, and different media
    • Vital for political advocacy, for generation of funds, and strengthening public-private partnerships
  • Morbidity Control
    • Conducts disability management trainings, produces self-help manuals, and facilitates hydrocoelectomy missions
  • Monitoring and Surveillance
  • Research and Development
Conceptualizing CELF

NATIONAL SCALE:

• CELF Activities:

• Coalition Building:
  • Creating local coalitions to pioneer elimination of LF at the provincial and municipal levels
  • Local government units become active players in terms of program planning, implementation, social mobilization and advocacy, networking, and resource generation
Conceptualizing CELF

NATIONAL SCALE:

• CELF Local Chapters: 4 provinces
  • (Misamis Occidental, Saranggani, Sulu, Surigao del Norte)
CELF: Strategies

• Development of an **efficient system** for the National Filariasis Elimination Program (NFEP)

• Through **Partnerships:**
  • Collaborative efforts from the LGUs, GOs, NGOs, Private organizations, other stakeholders
  • Ensuring funds, procurement & delivery of drugs
  • Mobilization of volunteers to deliver the drugs to the endemic population
  • Political commitment
CELF: Strategies

• Assisting the **Department of Health** in Program Implementation (GO-NGO Collaboration)
  • Partnered in the advocacy, communication, and social mobilization strategies of the program through the local coalitions
  • Assisted in the implementation of local projects and research studies
  • Facilitated several trainings for disability management and producing local LF experts
CELF: Strategies

• Partnering with **Multilateral & Bilateral Organizations** in Program Implementation
  • **WHO** – provided technical assistance in LF elimination strategies
  • **AusAid** – funded initiatives in Sulu Province
  • **Canada Fund for Local Initiatives** – funded initiatives in Misamis Oriental
CELF: Strategies

• Partnering with **Private Sector Organizations** for Support of Program Implementation
  • **Sagittarius Mines, Inc.** – funded initiatives in Saranggani Province, where the company is also located
  • **Chamber of Mines** – members located in Mindanao, where most provinces is LF-endemic
  • **GSK Foundation** – funded initiatives in Surigao del Norte
CELF: Activities

Launching of CELF-SDN

SULU - Mass Drug Administration

CELF-Misamis Occidental Launching

COALITION FOR THE CONTROL AND ELIMINATION OF LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS AND OTHER NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES, INC.
Philippine LF-Free Status

✓ Declared LF-Free provinces (2012):

12/44

✓ 8 provinces to be declared this year (2013)

✓ 24 provinces remaining
Summary

• Factors for Success:
  • **GO-NGO Collaboration:** CELF assisting DOH in program implementation
  • Tapping **multilateral/bilateral organizations** and the **private sector** *(pharmaceutical companies through their foundations, companies present at LF-endemic areas)* for collaboration and support
  • Partnering with **local governments** and **communities** for program implementation *(through the creation of local coalitions)*

The movement to eliminate the disfiguring and debilitating lymphatic filariasis will only become successful with the establishment of strong partnerships.
THANK YOU!
MARAMING SALAMAT!

Jaime Z. Galvez Tan, MD, MPH
Mobile No.: (+63917) 853-7798
E-mail Address: jzgalveztan@gmail.com