

Barangay (Village) Health Board Assemblies: A Powerful Strategy to Engage Rural Communities towards Enhanced Participation and Change

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Locale of the Study- Kapangan, Benguet, Cordillera Administrative Region, Northern Luzon, the Philippines



- 4th class municipality – a poor municipality
- Agricultural
- Population of 21,091 (2016)
- Households = 4,358
- Families = 4,380

Information, Education and Communication strategies

Early 2014

- **ONE-ON-ONE** basis such as during a brief encounter with a health worker and a patient/client
- **SMALL AUDIENCES** during random health gatherings.

2014

- **ONE-ON-ONE**
- **SMALL AUDIENCE**
- **AND BARANGAY HEALTH BOARD ASSEMBLIES**



“Barangay”

- the smallest administrative division in the Philippines
- the native term for a village
- municipalities and cities are subdivided into barangays
- Kapangan has 15 barangays

What are *Barangay Health Boards (BHB)*?

- the Health governing body at the barangay
- Created in March 2014 by virtue of an executive order of the Mayor
- Chairman - Barangay Chairman
- Co-chairman - Midwife
- Members - community volunteers
 - Barangay councilors
 - Religious leaders
 - Leaders of civic organizations

"Barangay Health Board Assemblies"

- An **INFORMATION, EDUCATION and COMMUNICATION** strategy designed for the community (large audience)
- planned and organized by the BHB
- funded by the municipal or barangay government
- Discusses health issues and challenges of the community; plans, activities and accomplishments
- Supported and guided by the Municipal Health Office and the Municipal Health Board
- Conducted up to 4 times a year

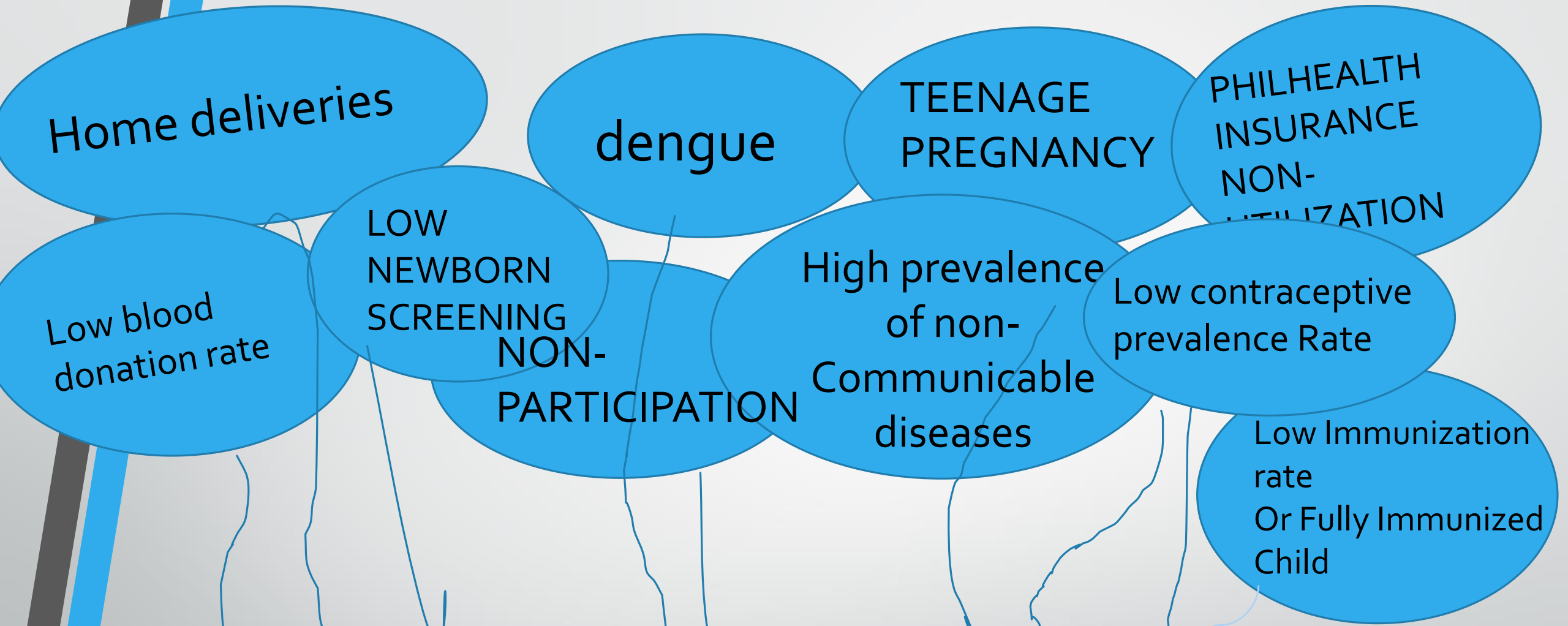
OBJECTIVES of conducting a Barangay Health Board Assembly

- engage the community people –to win their hearts and minds
- To inform and educate the community on health matters
- encourage community participation on health matters
- improve their knowledge, encourage and motivate them into action
- Improve their health seeking behaviour
- decide on solution on health issues and act on them (empowerment)



Ultimately, to improve their health
and make the community a healthy place to live in





Were these BHB assemblies effective in addressing health concerns?

Purpose of the Study

To determine the effectiveness of BHB assemblies in addressing health issues in the barangays

Time Frame

last quarter of 2014 to the 1st quarter of 2017

Methodology

1. QUESTIONNAIRE to 21 health personnel of the Kapangan Rural Health Unit who are assigned at the 15 barangays.

- Number of BHB conducted in the years of the study
- Number of facilitators
- number of participants
- topics discussed
- Effects on the community
- problems encountered



RESULTS

No of BHB and participants per year

YEAR	NUMBER OF BHB CONDUCTED	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	AVERAGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
1 ST QUARTER 2014	8	815	101
2015	18	1,670	92
2016	25	2,164	86
4 TH QUARTER 2017	15	2,052	136
total	66	5,198	78

No of RESOURCE SPEAKERS per year

YEAR	NUMBER OF BHB CONDUCTED	NUMBER OF RESOURCE SPEAKERS	AVERAGE NUMBER OF RESOURCE SPEAKERS
1 ST QUARTER 2014	8	51	6
2015	18	79	5
2016	25	79	5
4 TH QUARTER 2017	15	78	5
total	66	299	5

Types of RESOURCE SPEAKERS

type	NUMBER
Physicians	2
Nurses	12
Midwives	9
Others (Social Worker, Police, Spiritual Leader, PhilHealth Officers, other experts)	21

Top 10 topics Discussed during the BHB Assemblies

n=66

Topics discussed	Frequency	percent
1. hypertension	23	34.84%
2. voluntary blood donation	22	33.33%
3. antenatal care	18	27.27%
newborn care	18	27.27%
facility based delivery	18	27.27%
4. diabetes mellitus	16	24.24%
dengue	16	24.24%
5. newborn screening	15	22.72%
dengue vector surveillance result	15	22.72%

Top answers for PERCEIVED EFFECTS OF THE BHB ASSEMBLIES , n=21

Responses	frequency	percentage
1. Increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of diseases and health problems	21	100%
2. Improved attendance during Hypertension and Diabetic club meetings and activities, regular re-supply of medications	11	52.38%
3. Increased prenatal check ups	10	47.61%
4. Increased newborn screening	10	47.61%
5. Decreased home deliveries/ increased home deliveries	9	42.85%
6. Increased health seeking behaviour of hypertensive patient	8	38.09%

**PERCEIVED PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED DURING THE BHB ASSEMBLIES,
n=21**

RESPONSES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1. Inadequate Funding for BHB Assemblies	21	100%
2. Inadequate venue	4	19%
3. Negative attitude of community people to attend the BHB assembly	4	19%



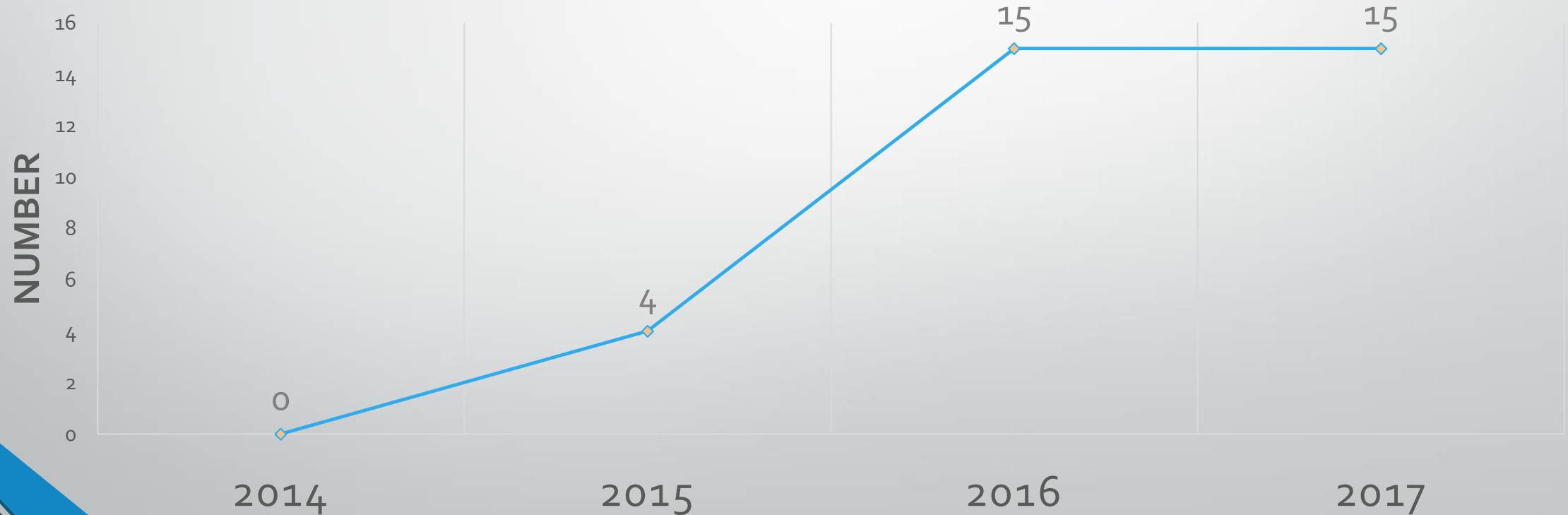
IMPACT

Hypertension- Organization of HYPERTENSION and DIABETIC CLUBS

NUMBER OF ORGANIZED AND FUNCTIONAL HYPERTENSION
AND DIABETIC CLUBS

KAPANGAN, BENGUET, CAR, PHILIPPINES 2014-2017

SOURCE: RURAL HEALTH UNIT



Voluntary Blood Donation

Number of Blood Donors
2013-2016 Kapangan, Benguet
Source: Local Blood Council

Number

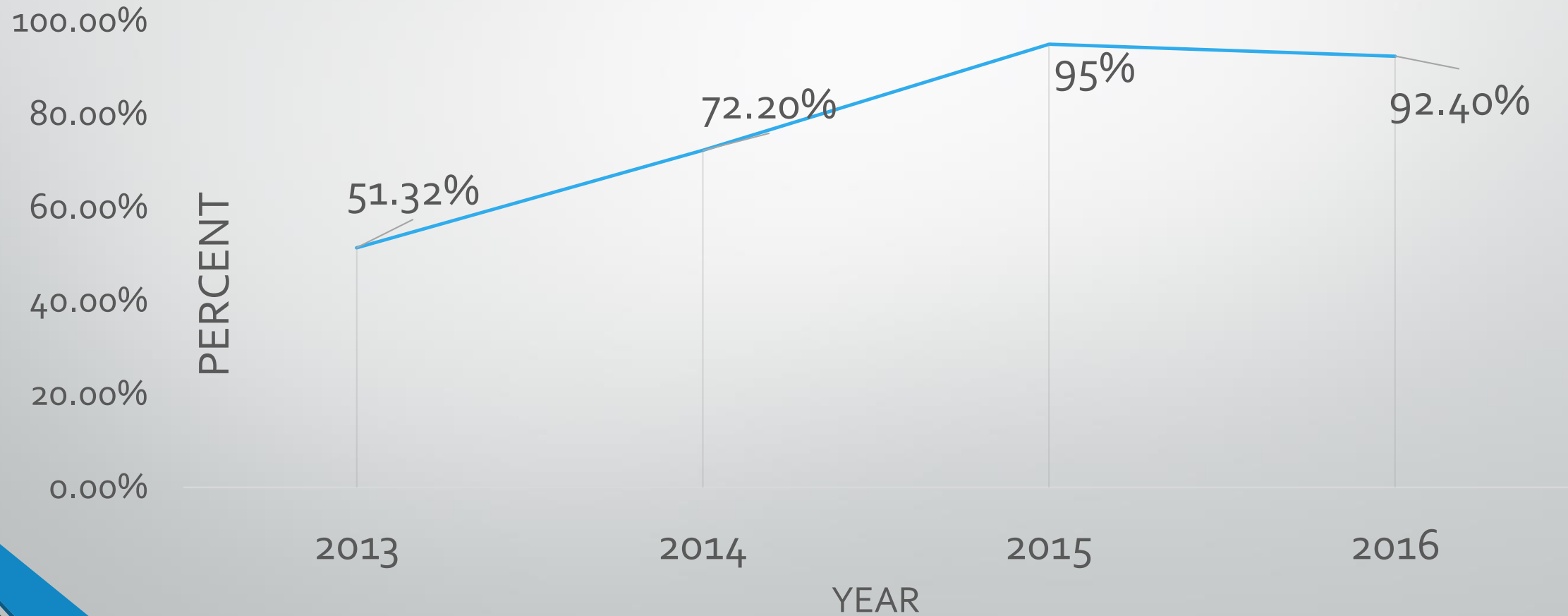


Facility Based Deliveries

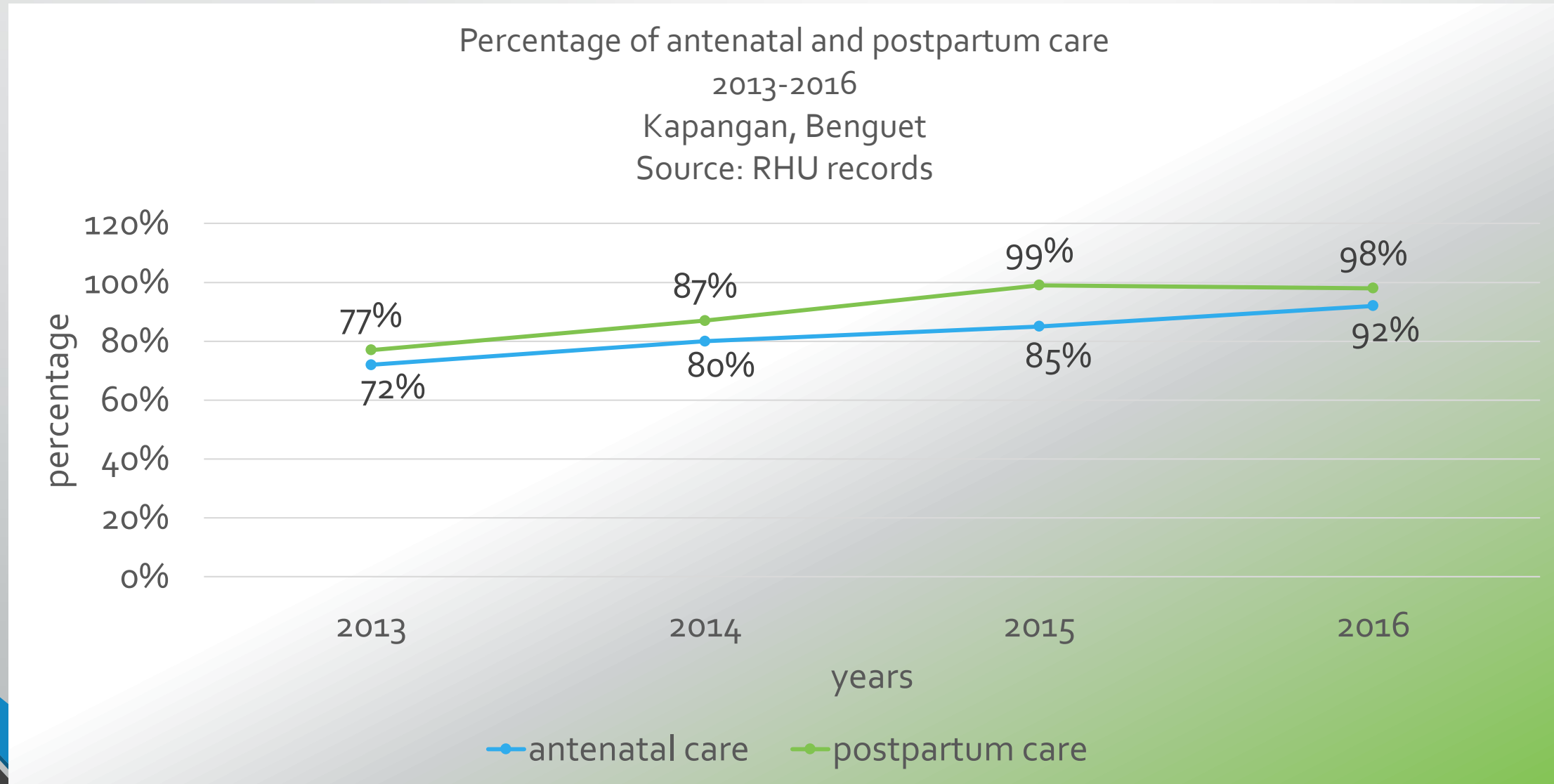
Percentage of Facility Based Deliveries from 2013 to 2016

KAPANGAN, BENGUET, PHILIPPINE

SOURCE = FHSIS REPORTS, Rural Health Unit



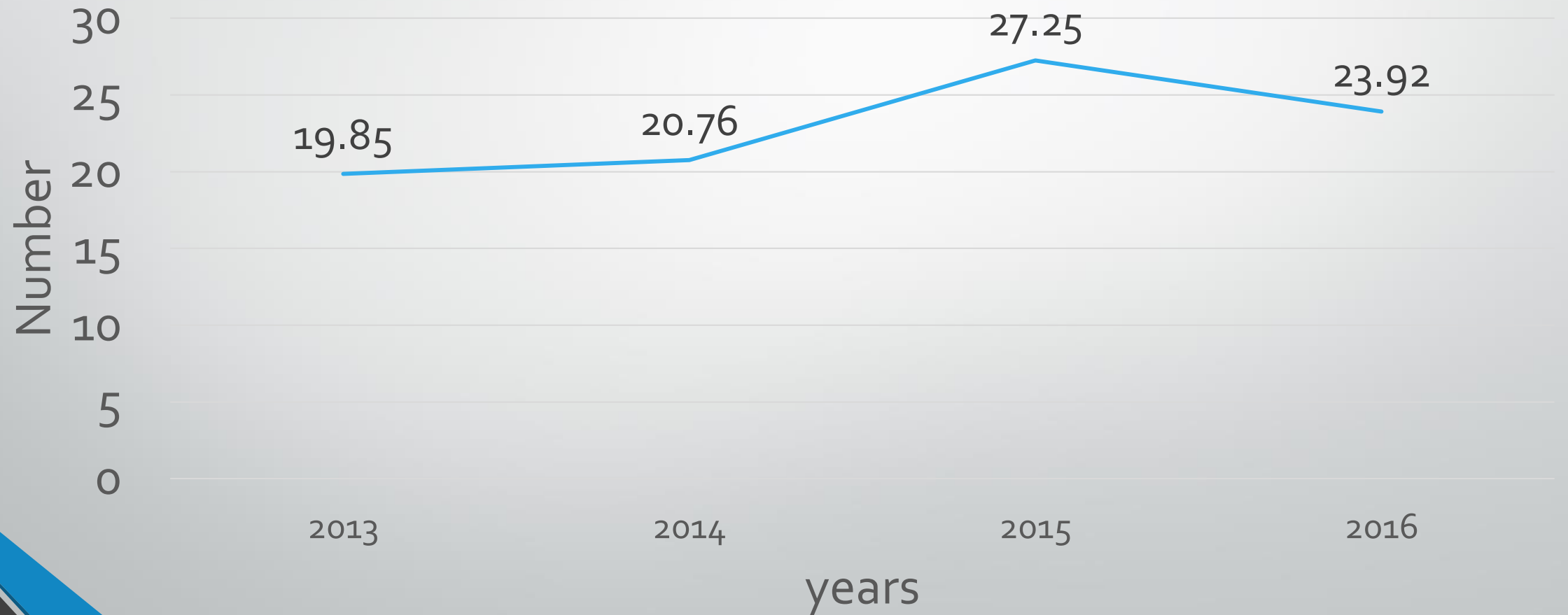
Antenatal and postpartum care



Family Planning

Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
Kapangan, Benguet, Philippines
2013-2016

Source: Rural Health Unit



Dengue Cases

Dengue Cases, Kapangan, Benguet, Philippines
2010- 1st Quarter of 2017

Source= Epidemiology reports, Rural Health Unit, Kapangan



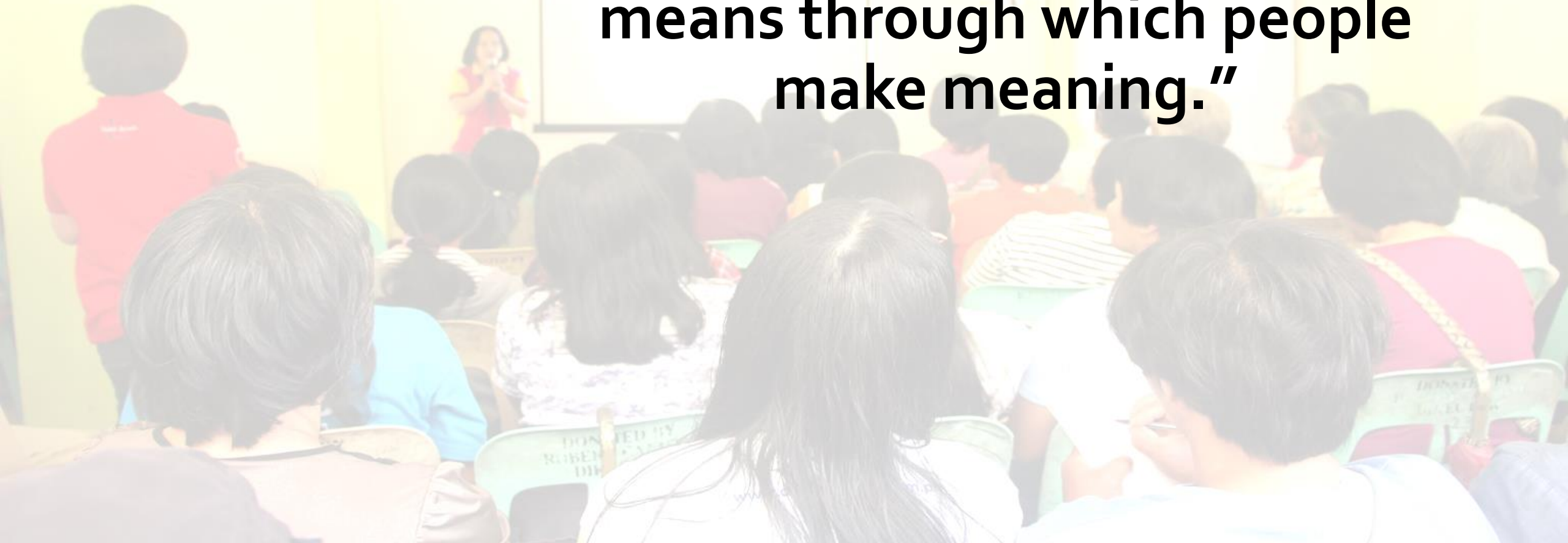
CONCLUSIONS:

1. BHB assemblies are a significant factor in
 - increasing participation in Hypertension and Diabetic clubs
 - Increasing Voluntary Blood Donors
 - increasing Facility Based Deliveries, newborn screening
 - Ante-natal and postpartum care
 - Increased Philhealth Utilization
2. Increased participation in combatting Dengue through clean up drives, disseminating information, dengue vector surveillance activities and a factor in decreasing dengue cases
3. BHB assemblies were only moderately significant in increasing family planning acceptors.
4. The main problem encountered in conducting BHB assemblies is funding.

CONCLUSION

Barangay (Village) Health Board Assemblies are indeed a powerful strategy to engage rural communities towards enhanced participation and change

“Story tellers, by the very act of telling, communicate a radical learning that changes lives and the world: telling stories is a universally accessible means through which people make meaning.”



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sustain the BHB Assemblies through
 - Institutionalizing the BHB
 - BHB and Barangay Council resolutions (policies)
 - Municipal Health Board and Municipal Council Resolutions (policies)
 - Adequate funding and should be included in the annual barangay and municipal budgets

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continuous improvement of resource speakers and BHB officers and members
- Provide a better venue for BHB Assemblies
- Involve more community members to participate
- A research to determine the best information education and communication method to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate

Thank you for
your kind
attention
**HAVE A NICE
DAY!**



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