

# Philippines

## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

### Situation Report #110

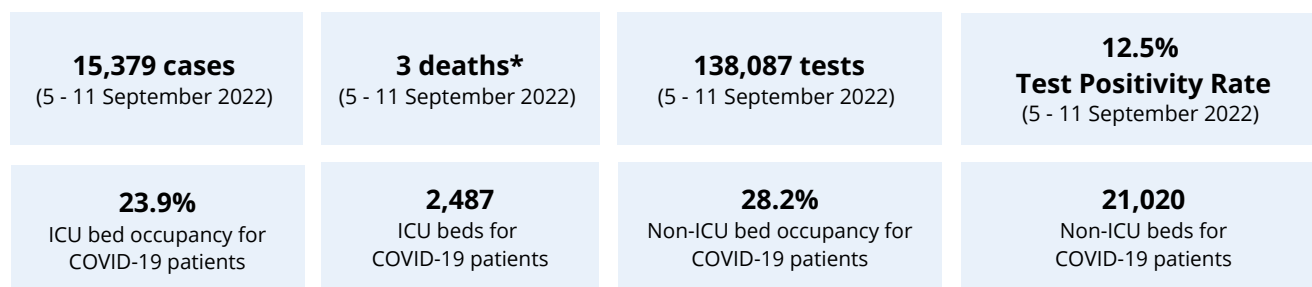
12 September 2022  
Data reported by the Department of Health on 11 September 2022



Please see the Philippines Department of Health (DOH) [Daily Case Bulletins](#) and [COVID-19 Tracker](#) for further information.

## Summary of the epidemiological situation in Philippines<sup>2</sup>

### Key numbers



\*Obtained from FASSSTER COVID-19 death tally as of 12 September 2022

### COVID-19 cases

There were 15,379 new cases (13.8 cases per 100,000 population<sup>3</sup>) reported in week 36 (5 - 11 September 2022), that is 10.1% lower than the previous week [29 August - 4 September 2022: 17,115 new cases (15.3 cases per 100,000 population<sup>3</sup>)]. In week 36, the following regions recorded the highest case counts: National Capital Region (5,887 cases), Region IV-A: CALABARZON (2,697 cases), and Region I: Ilocos Region (734 cases).

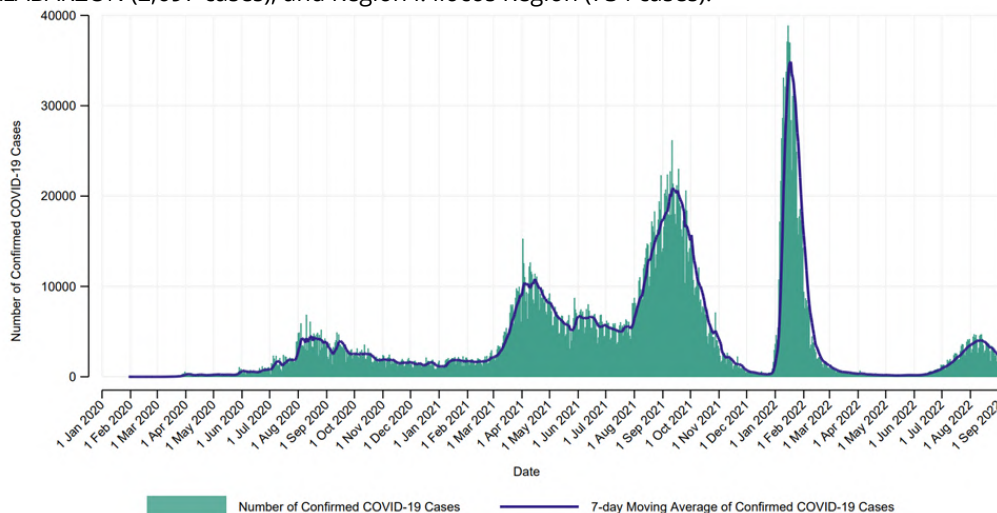


Figure 1. Daily reported COVID-19 cases in the Philippines (30 January 2020 – 11 September 2022)

<sup>1</sup>Percent of total population (n = 111,572,254)  
<sup>2</sup>Weekly case counts were obtained from FASSSTER COVID-19 PROJECT  
<sup>3</sup>Total population (n=111,572,254)

## Healthcare utilization

Following three weeks (weeks 33 - 35) of a declining trend in the daily number (7-day average) of COVID-19 occupied ICU beds, the COVID-19 ICU bed utilization reported in week 36 (639 beds utilised) had plateaued when compared with week 35 (627 beds utilised). As of 11 September 2022, the COVID-19 ICU bed utilization is 24.9%.

Additionally, there is no meaningful difference in the utilization of COVID-19 dedicated mechanical ventilators (7-day average) between week 36 (318 ventilators) and week 35 (332 ventilators). However, the utilization of mechanical ventilators in week 35 is 7.5% lower than the utilization in the previous week (359 ventilators).

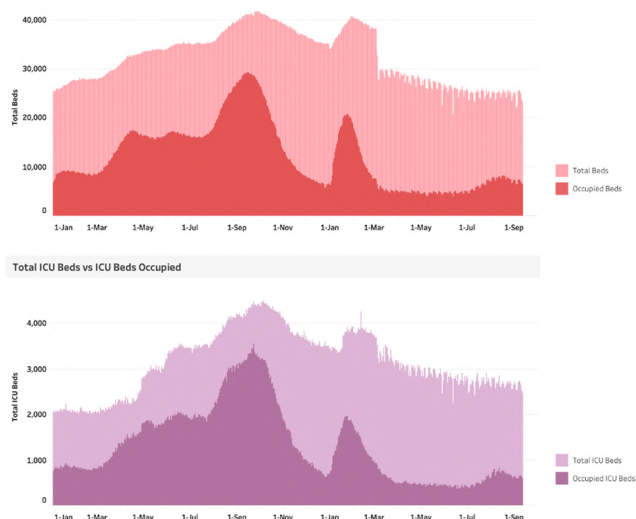


Figure 2. Total bed and ICU bed distribution over time stratified by occupancy (as of 11 September 2022)

## COVID-19 deaths

As of 11 September 2022, 62,304 COVID-19 related deaths have been reported in Philippines since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 3). Between 1 July and 11 September, there were 789 deaths reported; of these 268 were in July, 501 in August, and 20 in 1 - 11 September. There is continued delayed reporting of COVID-19 deaths due to ongoing verifications of cause of death.

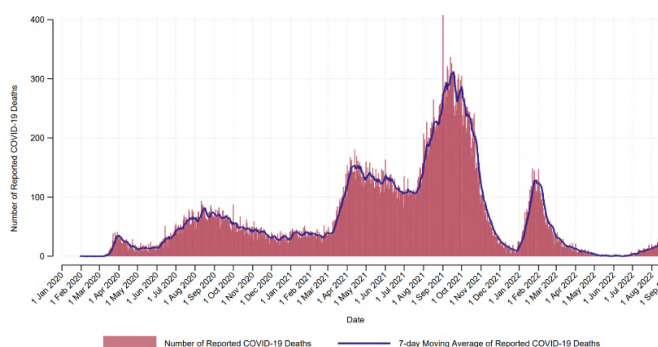


Figure 3. Daily number of COVID-19 deaths in the Philippines by date of death since 2020 (as of 11 September 2022)

## Laboratory: testing rates, positivity rates and genomic surveillance

There is no meaningful change in the recent testing rate (number of tests per 1,000 population) and recent positivity rate (number of individuals that tested positive/number of individuals tested) in the Philippines. There were 1.24 tests per 1,000 population for week 36 (138,087 tests) while the testing rate in week 35 is 1.27 tests per 1,000 population (141,619 tests). The test positivity rate for week 36 is 12.5%; 12.1% for week 35.

From 31 August 2022 to 9 September 2022, Department of Health Officer-in-Charge Dr Maria Rosario Vergeire released three Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) results - 9 September, 5 September, and 31 August 2022 (Table 1).

On 9 September 2022, 436 were confirmed to be Omicron Variant of Concern (VOC) - 425 BA.5, 10 BA.4, and one BA.2.75<sup>4</sup>.

On 5 September 2022, 656 were confirmed to be Omicron VOC- 624 BA.5, 13 BA.4, one BA.2.12.1, and 18 "Other sublineages". Nineteen of the BA.5 cases were Returning Overseas Filipinos (ROFs) and the 605 of the BA.5 cases were detected across 16 of the 17 regions (except Region VIII)<sup>5</sup>.

And on 31 August 2022, 929 were confirmed to be Omicron VOC - 889 BA.5, 16 BA.4, four BA.2.12.1, two cases of BA.2.75, and 18 "Other sublineages"<sup>6,7</sup>. Three of the BA.5 cases were Returning Overseas Filipinos (ROFs) and the 886 of the BA.5 cases were detected across 14 of the 17 regions.

Region	9 September 2022				5 September 2022				31 August 2022			
	BA.5	BA.4	BA.2.75		BA.5	BA.4	BA.2.12.1	Other sublineages	BA.5	BA.4	BA.2.12.1	BA.2.75
NCR	9	0	0	0	134	0	0	12	126	2	0	0
I	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	38	2	0	0
II	0	0	0	0	33	0	0	2	33	0	1	0
III	5	0	0	0	41	1	1	0	111	1	0	0
IV-A	19	0	0	0	61	0	0	0	60	1	1	0
IV-B	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	2	28	0	1	0
V	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	74	2	0	0
VI	214	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	211	1	0	1
VII	7	0	0	0	35	1	0	0	50	2	0	1
IX	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	24	0	1	0
X	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	15	0	0	0
XI	146	7	1	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
XII	21	2	0	56	11	0	0	0	25	4	0	0
XIII	1	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0
CAR	0	0	0	119	0	0	0	2	74	1	0	0
BARMM	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	425	10	1	605	13	1	1	18	886	16	4	2

Table 1. Number of BA.5, BA.4, and BA.2.75, BA.2.12.1, and "Other sublineages" cases detected per region in the Philippines, 31 August, 5 September, and 9 September 2022

<sup>(4)</sup> PH detects over 400 additional Omicron subvariant cases - SUNSTAR

<sup>(5)</sup> PH logs 656 additional cases of Omicron subvariants (cnnphilippines.com)

<sup>(6)</sup> PH detects 889 new cases of Omicron BA.5 subvariant | Philippine News Agency (pna.gov.ph)

<sup>(7)</sup> Philippines detects 929 more Omicron subvariant cases | GMA News Online (gmanetwork.com)

## Vaccination

As of 11 September 2022, 65.2% of the total population were vaccinated with the last dose of primary series. Among healthcare workers (A1 priority group), the coverage is 96.5%, with 60.3% having received the first booster dose and 22.5% received the second booster dose.

The Philippine government continues to prioritize COVID-19 vaccination (primary series and booster shots) of the vulnerable sectors of the population - elderly population (A2 priority group), persons with comorbidities (A3) and poor population (A5); their respective vaccination coverage (vaccinated with last dose of primary series) is 78.2%, 94.4%, and 73.0% (Figure 4).

For the first booster shot, 23.8% of the eligible population received the jab. The vaccination coverage of first booster dose for A2, A3, and A5 priority groups are 28.8%, 30.1%, and 13.6%, respectively.

In a media hearing on 9 September 2022, Dr Vergeire announced the “special week” vaccination on 26 - 30 September 2022 which will be done simultaneously across the country and the DOH targets to administer COVID-19 vaccines to between five to 21 million individuals. Medical societies can assist and launch the program within their groups <sup>8</sup>.

The vaccination coverage (last dose of primary series) of A2 population is 90% and above in three regions - with 93.0% in Region II, while the coverage is less than 70% in three regions (Table 2). Meanwhile, the vaccination coverage of the A5 group is below 70% in 11 of the 17 regions (Table 3) while 13 of the 17 regions have a vaccination coverage of 90% and above in A3 population (Table 4).

<sup>[8]</sup> DOH targets up to 21 million during 'special week' for COVID-19 vaccination (cnpphilippines.com)

REGION	Projected Pop (Priority Group A2)	Vaccinated with last dose of primary series	%	Vaccinated with first dose of primary series	%	1st Booster Shot	%	2nd Booster Shot	%
NCR	1,154,257	1,047,011	90.7%	20,180	1.7%	620,520	53.8%	261,554	22.7%
CAR	135,093	122,723	90.8%	6,111	4.5%	54,723	40.5%	11,487	8.5%
1	501,412	446,859	89.1%	15,579	3.1%	179,516	35.8%	17,858	3.6%
2	323,017	300,534	93.0%	10,419	3.2%	105,118	32.5%	9,251	2.9%
3	1,064,045	841,254	79.1%	31,038	2.9%	383,570	36.0%	66,054	6.2%
4A	1,273,740	1,045,272	82.1%	49,647	3.9%	416,014	32.7%	78,577	6.2%
Mimaropa	235,283	165,436	70.3%	10,872	4.6%	47,310	20.1%	3,225	1.4%
5	466,893	359,883	77.1%	14,429	3.1%	83,512	17.9%	5,816	1.2%
6	735,157	567,605	77.2%	(5,365)	-0.7%	140,117	19.1%	7,769	1.1%
7	677,107	407,128	60.1%	11,615	1.7%	97,796	14.4%	10,990	1.6%
8	389,645	273,118	70.1%	14,227	3.7%	60,716	15.6%	2,951	0.8%
9	273,362	203,485	74.4%	9,202	3.4%	54,388	19.9%	3,221	1.2%
10	384,311	283,460	73.8%	15,363	4.0%	90,909	23.7%	7,136	1.9%
11	407,116	265,127	65.1%	32,023	7.9%	72,261	17.7%	9,810	2.4%
12	306,824	215,896	70.4%	12,228	4.0%	49,899	16.3%	2,727	0.9%
CARAGA	207,153	177,778	85.8%	(5,053)	-2.4%	39,018	18.8%	2,244	1.1%
BARMM	186,876	95,888	51.3%	11,693	6.3%	15,749	8.4%	193	0.1%
PHIL	8,721,291	6,818,557	78.2%	254,208	2.9%	2,511,136	28.8%	500,863	5.7%

Table 2. Overview of vaccination of A2 population per region in the Philippines (11 September 2022)

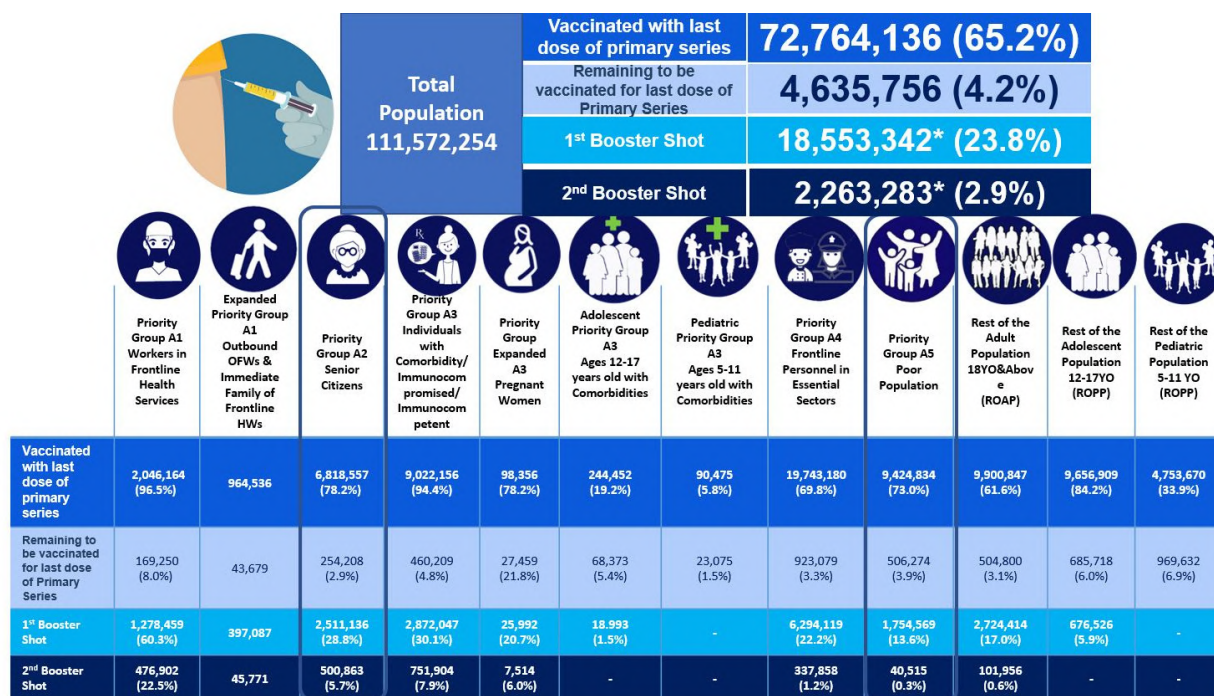
REGION	Projected Priority Group A5	Vaccinated with last dose of primary series	%	Vaccinated with first dose of primary series	%	1st Booster Shot	%	2nd Booster Shot	%
NCR	663,588	2,171,615	327.3%	62,790	9.5%	641,421	96.7%	3,601	0.5%
CAR	179,565	150,618	83.9%	7,081	3.9%	28,506	15.9%	400	0.2%
1	618,142	405,836	65.7%	34,833	5.6%	92,931	15.0%	2,377	0.4%
2	315,918	233,042	73.8%	19,651	6.2%	43,937	13.9%	1,347	0.4%
3	882,423	637,607	72.3%	50,835	5.8%	147,682	16.7%	4,975	0.6%
4A	955,143	1,216,317	127.3%	47,770	5.0%	249,005	26.1%	10,893	1.1%
Mimaropa	583,026	211,552	36.3%	17,558	3.0%	24,763	4.2%	585	0.1%
5	1,111,587	455,499	41.0%	49,825	4.5%	43,666	3.9%	1,633	0.1%
6	967,299	976,583	101.0%	(101,656)	-10.5%	118,106	12.2%	4,633	0.5%
7	854,691	503,389	58.9%	26,603	3.1%	58,962	6.9%	1,743	0.2%
8	839,772	339,618	40.4%	41,874	5.0%	40,136	4.8%	2,151	0.3%
9	896,151	452,879	50.5%	31,347	3.5%	72,904	8.1%	1,496	0.2%
10	798,837	305,177	38.2%	28,066	3.5%	52,693	6.6%	698	0.1%
11	771,534	435,949	56.5%	37,466	4.9%	41,568	5.4%	2,005	0.3%
12	743,511	249,858	33.6%	29,682	4.0%	19,291	2.6%	228	0.0%
CARAGA	566,586	221,113	39.0%	24,287	4.3%	24,378	4.3%	670	0.1%
BARMM	1,163,412	458,182	39.4%	98,262	8.4%	54,620	4.7%	1,080	0.1%
PHIL	12,911,193	9,424,834	73.0%	506,274	3.9%	1,754,569	13.6%	40,515	0.3%

Table 3. Overview of vaccination of A5 population per region in the Philippines (11 September 2022)

REGION	Projected Priority Group	Vaccinated with last dose of primary series	%	Vaccinated with first dose of primary series	%	1st Booster Shot	%	2nd Booster Shot	%
NCR	2,301,372	2,265,219	98.4%	125,387	5.4%	914,722	39.7%	307,062	13.3%
CAR	187,289	188,689	100.7%	5,220	2.8%	86,896	46.4%	9,096	4.9%
1	467,742	463,714	99.1%	21,095	4.5%	173,157	37.0%	49,209	10.5%
2	299,165	288,407	96.4%	15,923	5.3%	113,139	37.8%	24,441	8.2%
3	1,043,162	1,029,706	98.7%	47,438	4.5%	370,983	35.6%	124,464	11.9%
4A	1,145,277	1,026,997	89.7%	59,242	5.2%	323,284	28.2%	105,792	9.2%
Mimaropa	224,855	195,999	87.2%	9,876	4.4%	53,248	23.7%	10,290	4.6%
5	433,505	327,338	75.5%	33,778	7.8%	63,337	14.6%	9,037	2.1%
6	638,715	618,858	96.9%	41,296	6.5%	103,492	16.2%	14,295	2.2%
7	563,834	514,546	91.3%	24,637	4.4%	120,824	21.4%	16,307	2.9%
8	336,264	245,505	73.0%	12,739	3.8%	46,748	13.9%	5,069	1.5%
9	281,047	282,236	100.4%	8,485	3.0%	90,041	32.0%	13,910	4.9%
10	356,812	351,968	98.6%	12,853	3.6%	132,564	37.2%	27,127	7.6%
11	405,020	404,544	99.9%	7,588	1.9%	83,098	20.5%	13,445	3.3%
12	364,278	359,856	98.8%	16,418	4.5%	91,922	25.2%	9,907	2.7%
CARAGA	205,086	213,730	104.2%	(3,178)	-1.5%	58,428	28.5%	9,700	4.7%
BARMM	288,914	244,844	84.9%	21,412	7.2%	46,194	15.5%	2,753	0.9%
PHIL	9,652,337	9,022,156	94.4%	480,209	4.8%	2,872,047	30.1%	751,904	7.9%

Table 4. Overview of vaccination of A3 population per region in the Philippines (11 September 2022)





\*eligible population for booster

Figure 4. Overview of COVID-19 vaccination status of Philippines' population as of 11 September 2022

## Strategic approach to COVID-19 Prevention, Detection, and Control

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

#### Risk Communications

WHO and UNICEF supported the DOH Health Promotion Bureau in its RCCE and Microplanning training for over 400+ representatives of subnational DOH and local government units from 17 Regions. The capacity building initiative was designed to empower key personnel involved in demand generation for COVID-19 vaccines on evidence generation and use, microplanning, supportive supervision, and risk and crisis communication. The first batch was trained from 29 August to 2 September 2022, while the second batch was trained from 12 to 16 September 2022.

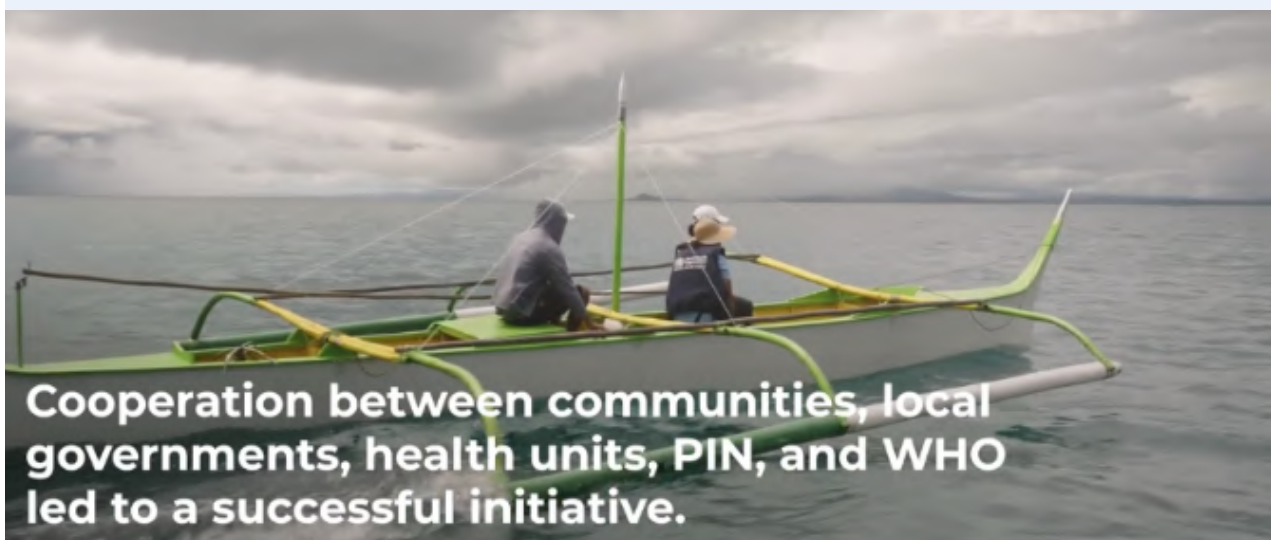


With support from the United States' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), WHO Philippines is assisting the Department of Health (Philippines) in the installation of two cold storage rooms at the Dr Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital Warehouse in Tala, Caloocan City.

The new cold rooms at the Tala warehouse will store COVID-19 and routine immunization vaccines. Funding from the CDC and WHO – valued at P6.7 million – makes this support possible.



*Manicani* is an island in the Eastern Samar province of the Philippines. Its remote geographical location makes it challenging for its residents to access health services. WHO Philippines worked closely with civil society organization People in Need (PIN) to increase COVID-19 vaccination uptake among vulnerable groups in the island. Cooperation between communities, local government, health units, PIN, and WHO led to a successful initiative. By March 2022, vaccination coverage in Brgy Banaag alone reached 100% for adult eligible populations, including vulnerable groups.



Watch this [video](#) to learn more about the project.



## Partner Coordination

### Updates from USAID

#### ***USAID's EpiC trains healthcare workers and hospital staff on COVID-19 management and care and oxygen ecosystem***

From 20 - 22 July 2022, the USAID's Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) COVID-19 Project managed by FHI 360 in the Philippines facilitated its second batch of Lessons and Algorithms on COVID-19 (LEARN COVID) Clinical Care Pathways Training Workshop with 17 large government hospitals in Cebu City.

EpiC trained 18 healthcare workers on the latest guidelines and updates on COVID-19 case triaging and management, and 15 biomedical engineers or designates on strengthening the hospital's oxygen ecosystem. In this hybrid blended training, EpiC discussed the general concepts in navigating COVID-19 clinical care pathways across the health care system, focusing on COVID-19 case triaging, management, and referral; infection prevention and control; COVID-19 therapeutics; and medical oxygen delivery and systems. EpiC maximized different online platforms and strategies in engaging the participants in their learning.

EpiC also conducted an interactive stress debriefing and management session for all 33 participants, who expressed appreciation for this activity where they could share and process their experiences and reassess their mental health status.



*USAID's EpiC project trained healthcare workers from 17 government COVID-19 referral hospitals in Visayas and Mindanao on clinical case management of patients with COVID-19, focusing on mild and moderate cases.*



*Learners from different hospitals grouped and discussed together case-based scenarios on COVID-19 management as part of their interactive breakout activity.*



*USAID's EpiC also trained biomedical engineers, technicians, and respiratory therapists on various topics in the oxygen ecosystem, including a discussion on modern systems such as liquid oxygen.*

#### ***USAID's EpiC, partners organize a Community of Practice on hospital's oxygen ecosystem during public health emergencies***

More than 400 participants joined USAID's EpiC's *Community of Practice* webinar on the oxygen ecosystem, highlighting the challenges, lessons learned, and best practices in improving the hospital systems for medical oxygen. This webinar was a collaborative offering of the Department of Health-Health Facility Development Bureau (DOH-HFDB), the Biomed Society of the Philippines, and USAID's EpiC project. Dr Ma. Theresa Vera, Director IV of DOH-HFDB, highlighted the government's efforts to ensure that the country has enough sustainable oxygen supply in case of another surge.

EpiC facilitated this webinar and looked at how healthcare workers from EpiC-supported hospitals, such as Sulu Provincial Hospital, addressed the oxygen supply challenges during various COVID-19 surges.

Likewise, biomedical engineers from Quirino Memorial Medical Center and Eastern Samar Provincial Hospital shared their expertise and experience in managing and sustaining their oxygen supply to meet increased demand for patient care during a surge. Representatives from DOH-HFDB and the Biomed Society of the Philippines joined the panelists and provided national and organizational thrust and initiatives to invest in long-term and sustainable oxygen ecosystems. Dr Mirwais Rahimzai, Director of FHI 360's COVID-19 Response Division, provided his global perspective and insights during the panel discussion. He shared recommendations on how the country and health facilities improve our medical oxygen delivery.

### USAID Hands over COVID-19 Commodities

USAID's Infectious Disease Detection and Surveillance (IDDS) COVID-19 Specimen Referral and Transport team handed over rapid antigen test kits and PPEs to the Palawan Provincial Health Office (PHO) - Molecular Biology Laboratory. Ms Norry Fe An Payopelin, Medical Technologist of Palawan PHO, received these COVID-19 commodities.



Panelists and representatives from DOH, USAID, Biomed Society, EpiC, and hospital partners joined to highlight the importance of acknowledging and addressing concerns about the hospital oxygen ecosystem.

USAID's EpiC Community of Practice (CoP):  
A COVID-19 Webinar Series

**Oxygen Under Stress:**  
Improving Hospital's Oxygen Ecosystem  
during Public Health Emergencies

August 18, 2022 (Thursday)  
9 AM to 10:30 AM PHT via Zoom

[bit.ly/EpiCCoP-o2ecosystem](https://bit.ly/EpiCCoP-o2ecosystem)

#OxygenEcosystem

To those who have missed the webinar, they could still view the recording on-demand via <https://bit.ly/EpiCCoP-o2ecosystem>.



## Updates from UNICEF

### *Supporting COVID-19 vaccination*

As part of its response and recovery efforts in Southern Leyte and Region XIII (CARAGA), and with the support of the Government of New Zealand, UNICEF deployed tents to communities with health facilities that are still awaiting repair. These tents provide rural health units and city health offices with service delivery points for communities to access health services such as antenatal care, health and nutrition consultations, routine immunization, and COVID-19 vaccination.

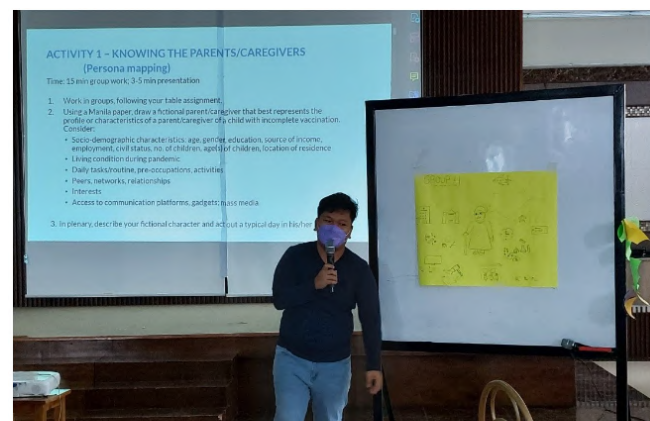
As part of the recovery efforts for areas affected by Typhoon Odette in Southern Leyte, UNICEF, with funding from the Government of New Zealand, supported a 3-day refresher course on Basic Immunization and Cold Chain Management on 31 August to 2 September 2022. A total of 40 health workers in the province, across 17 city and municipal rural health units received the training to better equip them with knowledge and skills in the effective implementation of the national immunization programme, including COVID-19 vaccination. The training was also intended to contribute to more robust preparedness and response measures in the province and municipalities during disaster.



*Residents of Barangay Balibayon in Surigao City access health services provided through a UNICEF tent deployed as a temporary health facility*  
©UNICEF/2022/Ellen Grace Ledesma



*Participants of the UNICEF-supported Basic Immunization and Cold Chain Management course in Southern Leyte are awarded their certificates of completion.* ©UNICEF/2022/Ma. Bella Ponferrada



*A participant of the UNICEF-supported Basic Immunization and Cold Chain Management course in Southern Leyte presents output from an activity on community engagement for vaccinations.*  
©UNICEF/2022/Mark Benjamin Quiazon





UNICEF consultant Dr Bella Ponferrada provides insight on reasons for low immunization coverage in communities.  
©UNICEF/2022/Mark Benjamin Quiazon

### ***Learning Recovery Programme in Region VIII***

UNICEF Philippines has been working closely with the Department of Education in Region VIII through a Learning Recovery Programme to address learning loss caused by school closures during the COVID-19 lockdowns. Comprehensive Rapid Literacy Assessments (CRLA) were developed in mother tongues with teachers from the region, followed by the training of over 12,000 teachers from Grades 1–3 on how to administer the assessment tools. The CRLA was then administered to over 260,000 learners from Grades 1–3. Based on the assessment results, non-readers and frustrated readers will receive digital learning interventions aimed at supporting the development of foundational skills in literacy.

Last 28 July, UNICEF Philippines and the Embassy of Japan handed over 400 tablets to Samar and Northern Samar schools divisions. These tablets are uploaded with local digital learning resources and will benefit at least 800 students from 30 schools.

Evelyn Fetalvero, Regional Director for Department of Education Region VIII, Chihiro Kanno, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, Isy Faingold, UNICEF Philippines Chief of Education, students and their parents were at the handover ceremony of digital devices by UNICEF Philippines and Embassy of Japan to DepEd Region VIII in Tacloban City on 28 July 2022.



A few of the 400 donated tablets on display at the handover ceremony of digital devices by UNICEF Philippines and Embassy of Japan to DepEd Region VIII in Tacloban City on 28 July 2022.  
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