Expanding health services to those who need them most in the Philippines

PHILIPPINES
100 million residents
While insurance coverage is widely available, there is a gap in access to care between rich and poor Filipinos

25% live in poverty*

*According World Bank data

HIS GOAL: reduce disease burden and expand health coverage

PROBLEM

1. No priority setting
   PhilHealth, the government health insurance program, did not use priority setting to determine how to best spend money

2. Limited resources
   90% of the population is covered by PhilHealth but it had limited resources to expand

3. Out-of-pocket costs with PhilHealth
   almost 60%

SOLUTION

Dr. Wong used GBD data to identify health priorities by finding the causes that led to 80% of the disease burden

Expanded benefit package
Prioritizing led to the creation of an expanded benefit package that will initially cover 15 million Filipinos in the most need – the poor

Out-of-pocket costs with the expanded benefits package:
little or none
+ covers preventive services like blood sugar screening

Source: www.rouxprize.org

The world can look at what the Philippines has done, because it used burden of disease data to set priorities, leading to more efficient use of its resources.

- Dr. Wong

John Q. Wong, MD, MSc
Used Global Burden of Disease data to identify the Philippines' most pressing health problems

Dr. Wong holds academic appointments at Ateneo de Manila University, where he teaches courses on epidemiology and health policy.