

Statement of Interest: Advancing Global Health APS — DFOP0017890

Addendum C: Advancing Integrated and Sustainable Health Systems in the Philippines

Field	Detail
Proposed Project Title	Strengthening Integrated Disease Surveillance, Service Delivery, and Domestic Financing in the Philippines (SHIELD Philippines)
Name of Organization	Pacific Health Alliance International (PHAI)
Addendum C	Advancing Integrated and Sustainable Health Systems in the Philippines
Target Benefiting Country	Republic of the Philippines
Total Federal Share Requested	\$38,000,000
Total Cost Share	N/A
Project Length	5 years

Issue/Challenge/Opportunity

The Philippines faces a convergence of infectious disease threats that endanger both Philippine and American health security. TB incidence stands at 638 per 100,000, the highest in the Western Pacific and third highest globally. HIV diagnoses have risen sharply over the past decade, with the country recording over 17,000 new cases in 2023, concentrated among young men in Metro Manila and key cities across Visayas and Mindanao. Neglected tropical diseases, including schistosomiasis and lymphatic filariasis, persist in rural provinces. Measles and other vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks recur in regions with chronically low immunization coverage.

These disease burdens are compounded by structural weaknesses in the health system. The Philippines' 2019 Universal Health Care Act decentralized significant responsibility to local government units (LGUs), but many LGUs lack the fiscal capacity, technical workforce, and data infrastructure to manage integrated programs. Disease surveillance systems remain siloed: TB, HIV, and routine immunization each operate separate reporting pipelines with limited interoperability, delaying outbreak detection and undermining coordinated response. The Philippine Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (PIDSRS) system depends on paper-based reporting in many provinces, particularly in Mindanao and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), where geographic isolation, poverty, and conflict further constrain access.

Supply chain fragility compounds these gaps. The Department of Health's (DOH) logistics management information system covers only a subset of commodities, and LGU procurement

processes are slow and opaque. PhilHealth reimbursement for TB and HIV services remains underutilized, with primary care benefit package uptake below 30% in most regions. The Philippines Food and Drug Administration (FDA) faces a multi-year backlog in product registration, limiting the availability of diagnostics and therapeutics.

These are not abstract risks. An undetected outbreak originating in the Philippines' dense urban centers or underserved frontier areas could reach the United States within days through commercial air travel. Strengthening the Philippines' capacity to detect, respond to, and contain infectious disease threats is a direct investment in American health security.

Proposed Solution/Activities

SHIELD Philippines will work across all four objectives of Addendum C, with geographically targeted investments in Luzon (Metro Manila and Calabarzon), Visayas (Central Visayas and Western Visayas), and Mindanao (Davao Region and BARMM). The program is built around three operating principles drawn from PHAI's 18 years of implementation in the Philippines: integrate at the point of service delivery, build systems that LGUs can operate and fund independently, and use data to drive every resource allocation decision.

Objective 1: Strengthen Disease Surveillance, Detection, and Outbreak Response

SHIELD Philippines will upgrade the PIDSR system in target regions from paper-based to digital, real-time reporting using the Disease Surveillance and Notification System (DSNS) platform currently deployed in five provinces. The project will extend DSNS to an additional 15 provinces, prioritizing BARMM, Central Visayas, and Davao Region, and will integrate event-based surveillance signals from community health teams, private clinics, and pharmacy networks.

The project will strengthen the DOH laboratory network for multi-pathogen detection by equipping four Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Units (RESUs) with GeneXpert platforms capable of testing for TB, HIV viral load, and select outbreak pathogens on a single instrument. PHAI will partner with the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) to expand genomic sequencing capacity for outbreak characterization and will support workforce development by training 200 municipal epidemiological surveillance officers and 50 rapid response team members across target regions.

To enable timely outbreak response, SHIELD Philippines will establish a surge coordination mechanism linked to DOH's Health Emergency Management Bureau. This mechanism will maintain pre-positioned response kits for priority pathogens and a trained, deployable workforce that can activate within 72 hours of outbreak verification.

Objective 2: Integrate Health Service Delivery Across Disease Programs

SHIELD Philippines will redesign service delivery in 300 primary care facilities across target regions to deliver integrated TB, HIV, NTD, and immunization services through a single patient encounter. This approach draws on PHAI's experience integrating TB and HIV screening in 45 facilities in Region IV-A between 2021 and 2025, where dual screening increased TB case detection by 34% and HIV testing uptake by 52% while reducing patient visits by an average of 1.7 per treatment episode.

The project will strengthen private sector service delivery by establishing formal referral agreements with 120 private clinics and pharmacies, enabling TB treatment initiation, HIV testing, and immunization services outside the public system. PHAI will work with the Philippine Business for Social Progress and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce to develop a private sector engagement framework that includes performance-based incentives tied to case notification and treatment completion rates.

Laboratory integration will consolidate separate disease-specific testing workflows into shared platforms at the provincial level, reducing reagent waste and turnaround times. Supply chain integration will unify commodity forecasting, procurement, and distribution for TB drugs, antiretrovirals, vaccines, and diagnostic supplies through a single logistics management system aligned with DOH's existing supply chain architecture.

Objective 3: Strengthen Domestic Capacity to Fund and Manage Health Systems

SHIELD Philippines will work with PhilHealth, DOH, and LGU finance offices to increase domestic financing for health services. The project will support PhilHealth in expanding primary care benefit package utilization from below 30% to above 60% in target regions by simplifying provider accreditation, automating claims processing, and training 500 PhilHealth regional and LGU-level staff on benefit package design and reimbursement management.

The project will provide technical assistance to the Philippine FDA to reduce the product registration backlog by streamlining the review process for priority health products, including diagnostics, TB drugs, and vaccines. PHAI will work with FDA to adopt a reliance pathway for products already approved by stringent regulatory authorities, reducing median review time from 18 months to under 6 months for qualifying products.

At the LGU level, SHIELD Philippines will build fiscal management capacity in 40 LGUs by embedding health budget analysts within provincial and city health offices to improve investment planning, budget execution, and expenditure tracking. The project will develop a standardized LGU health financing scorecard that tracks domestic resource mobilization against service

delivery targets, creating accountability for the transition from U.S. government funding to host government financing.

Objective 4: Establish Robust Performance Accountability Mechanisms

SHIELD Philippines will support the U.S. Embassy Manila and DOH to build complementary monitoring and accountability systems. For DOH, the project will strengthen the national health information system by improving interoperability across PIDSR, the Integrated TB Information System (ITIS), the HIV/AIDS and ART Registry of the Philippines (HARP), and PhilHealth claims data. The project will deploy a unified analytics dashboard that enables national and regional health managers to monitor service delivery coverage, epidemiological trends, supply chain performance, and domestic resource mobilization in real time.

For the U.S. Embassy, SHIELD Philippines will develop a portfolio performance tracking platform that aligns all U.S.-funded health activities in the Philippines against shared indicators, enabling cross-program resource alignment, results reporting, and timely course correction. The platform will incorporate geospatial analytics to improve geographic targeting and identify underserved areas.

The project will institutionalize quarterly joint performance reviews between DOH, U.S. Embassy Manila, and implementing partners, using standardized data from both systems to assess progress, identify bottlenecks, and reallocate resources.

Anticipated Outcomes and Results

Over five years, SHIELD Philippines will deliver the following results:

Surveillance and outbreak response. Digital, real-time disease surveillance operational in 20 provinces covering approximately 35 million people. Outbreak detection-to-response time reduced to under 7 days in target regions. 200 trained surveillance officers and 50 rapid response team members deployed across target regions.

Integrated service delivery. 300 primary care facilities delivering integrated TB, HIV, NTD, and immunization services. TB case detection increased by 25% and HIV testing uptake increased by 40% in target facilities. 120 private sector facilities actively delivering public health services through formal referral agreements.

Domestic financing. PhilHealth primary care benefit package utilization increased from below 30% to above 60% in target regions. Philippine FDA product registration median review time reduced from 18 months to under 6 months for priority health products. 40 LGUs with operational health financing scorecards tracking domestic resource mobilization.

Statement of Interest: Advancing Global Health APS — DFOP0017890

Addendum C: Advancing Integrated and Sustainable Health Systems in the Philippines

Performance accountability. Integrated national health analytics dashboard operational across DOH systems. U.S. Embassy portfolio performance tracking platform operational. Quarterly joint performance reviews institutionalized.

These results directly advance the America First Global Health Strategy by reducing the risk of cross-border infectious disease transmission, building Philippine self-reliance in health system management and financing, and strengthening the bilateral health security partnership. The integration of U.S. diagnostic and digital health technologies into the Philippine system expands the market for American products and standards.

List of Partner Roles and Responsibilities

Partner	Type	Contact	Budget	Role
Pacific Health Alliance International (PHAI)	U.S. NGO (Prime)	Maria Santos, Country Director; m.santos@phai.org ; +63-2-8555-1200	\$22,800,000	Overall program management, surveillance system strengthening, private sector engagement, performance accountability systems
Luzon Health Development Cooperative (LHDC)	Philippine NGO	Dr. Ramon Bautista; r.bautista@lhdc.ph ; +63-2-8432-0900	\$6,500,000	Integrated service delivery in Luzon, LGU fiscal capacity building, PhilHealth benefit package expansion
Mindanao Institute for Health Systems (MIHS)	Philippine NGO	Amina Pangandaman; a.pangandaman@mihs.org.ph ; +63-64-421-3300	\$5,200,000	Surveillance and service delivery in Mindanao and BARMM, community health team training, outbreak response capacity
DataBridge Health Technologies	U.S. for-profit	James Chen, CEO; j.chen@databrigehealth.com ; +1-206-555-0142	\$3,500,000	Digital surveillance platform deployment (DSNS), analytics dashboard development, geospatial tools, data system interoperability