BACKGROUND

A safe, reliable blood supply is a key element of modern healthcare systems. However, in many developing countries, including the Philippines, the blood supply lacks both the safety and capacity provided by a fully volunteer blood supply. Instead, replacement and remunerated donors comprise the majority of blood collected for transfusion.

The World Health Organization has made blood transfusion safety a priority for improving healthcare in the developing world. The five key elements of their plan include:

- Voluntary donation of blood from low-risk populations
- Screening for transfusion transmitted infections
- Blood compatibility testing
- Blood component fractionation
- Reduction in unnecessary transfusions

PURPOSE

The Philippines Blood Safety Program is working with Ormoc City in Leyte, Philippines to develop a regional blood system that builds on the community’s existing resources, and that meets WHO’s goals. An initial needs assessment trip was completed in August, 2015.

Needs assessment trip goals:

- Collect data on Leyte’s regional blood supply
- Learn about Ormoc City’s healthcare infrastructure
- Meet community organizations interested in philanthropy
- Build personal and industry connections that will facilitate the program

The Philippines Blood Safety Program Task Group, a multidisciplinary group of volunteers from UCSF, was formed in order to plan and implement improvements to the Ormoc City blood system. They teamed up with Global Healing, an East Bay non-profit with expertise in developing blood systems.

METHODS

- Remote data collection forms emailed to the five Ormoc City hospitals and OSPA-FMC
- Onsite data collection
- Face-to-face meetings with directors of each hospital, Ormoc Red Cross, Rotary club, and Ormoc City government

APPROACH

The Philippines Blood Safety Program today

PhilippinesBloodSafety.org