RESULTS

• EngenderHealth, through its USAID-funded VisayasHealth project, partnered with the DOH to increase access to FP services by facilitating provision of intrauterine devices (IUDs) and implants at the San Remigio Rural Health Unit. EngenderHealth selected San Remigio as the pilot site because (1) the LGU demonstrated an interest in sustaining its FP program, (2) the facility had obtained PhilHealth accreditation already, and (3) the lack of providers able to provide long-acting FP methods (compensable by PhilHealth) offered an opportunity for expanding the range of services available through training.

• EngenderHealth worked with the DOH to deliver training on method provision and facilitate PhilHealth accreditation for the newly trained service providers. The project also introduced community mobilization activities to generate demand for the newly available FP services; this included engaging satisfied FP users to promote FP awareness in their communities and facilitating special FP events to complement routine service provision. EngenderHealth also helped the facility establish a system for filing claims to PhilHealth and tracking and managing reimbursements as part of a revised business plan focused on sustainability.

IMPLICATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

• This project demonstrated that health insurance programs can serve as an important revenue stream for service providers who have previously relied on government subsidies and international aid. Further, such health insurance programs can specifically support the expansion of quality FP service delivery, when FP costs are included within the insurance mechanism, as they are in PhilHealth.

• Facilities require training for expanded and improved clinical service provision as well as technical support to understand health insurance requirements and to create internal systems for requesting, tracking, and managing reimbursements. Such support, in addition to community mobilization, may serve as a replicable approach for additional LGUs in the Philippines and in other contexts where health insurance programs covering FP are available.