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## **Philippines: An Int-ERUPTED Experience**

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# Philippines: An Int-ERUPTED Experience

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## Background

- Philippines provided a unique setting where we would get exposure in a resource limited NICU, a general hospital, and a dedicated Children's Hospital

## Objective

- Experience how a resource limited hospital is managed
- Learn about the medical system and how health care is delivered
- Interact with residents and fellows to understand their role
- Compare cultural practices in the Philippines vs the US

## Preparation

- Global health academic half days and noon conferences
- Global health simulations
- International Travel Clinic

## Experience

- Experienced NICU in Fabella for 1 week
- Experience was cut short by a volcanic eruption -> evacuated by MedJet
- Applied global health knowledge about disaster relief
- Gathered supplies after eruption including medications, water, and food
- Were unable to find N95 masks -> made makeshift masks with bandanas and tissue paper

## Reflection

- Unexpected experience but highly valuable!
- NICU experience
  - Kangaroo care was the norm and could be emphasized in the US more
  - Difficult discussions about survival with families due to limited resources
- Evacuation Experience
  - Learned the importance of having essential supplies (e.g. will always travel with an N95 now!)
  - Although much uncertainty, felt prepared as a group
  - Know your role and be safe! Determine if you will be a burden on the medical system
  - Communicate, extensively with program and loved ones back home!

## Future Directions

- Hope to experience global health at a different site in fellowship to compare
- Continue to be involved with global health education throughout career

