

#### Empowering HIV/AIDS Communities in the Philippines: A Proposal for Advocacy

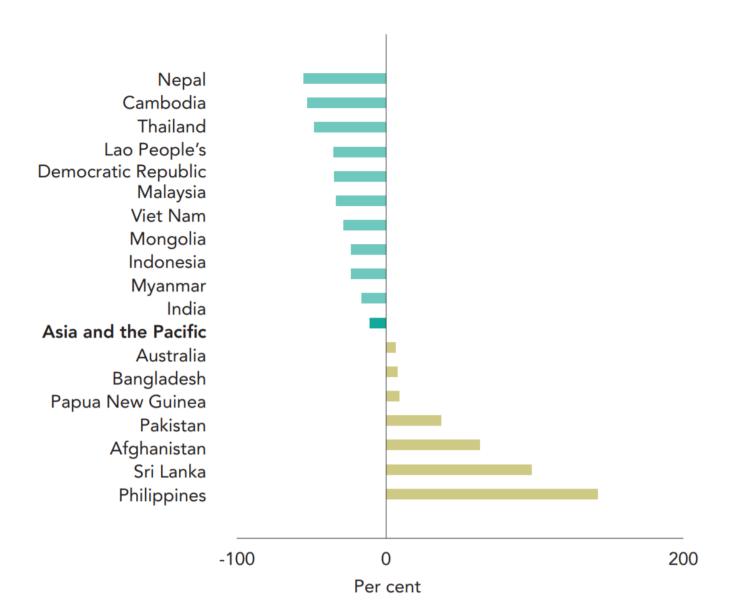
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#### Introduction and Background

- The Philippines currently has the fastest HIV epidemic in Asia. 1, 2
- Reasons for this epidemic include cultural stigma around lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities and IV drug use.<sup>3,4</sup>
- Community organizations for and by people with HIV (PLHIV), such as Pinoy Plus, provide support for these vulnerable populations. <sup>5</sup>
- Pinoy Plus provides PLHIVs a way to come together and have a voice at the regional and international level through programming that provides psychosocial support, outreach to encourage healthcare follow-up, capacity building, and advocacy. <sup>5</sup>
- UNICEF funded Pinoy Plus to conduct a program to empower children and adolescents infected and affected by HIV.
- The purpose of this global health project is to assist Pinoy Plus in the development of empowerment sessions for these children and to advocate for this population.

Source: UNAIDS 2017 estimates.



**Figure 1**. Number of New HIV Infections, Children (Aged 0-14 Years), Asian and The Pacific, 2010-2016 (UNAIDS)<sup>6</sup>

# **Project Timeline**

• Data collection by Pinoy Plus to identify health priorities and issues among children and adolescents infected or affected with HIV April Submission of grant proposal for global health experience Literature review of similar HIV/AIDS programs targeted toward teens to prepare for trip • Identification of needs and priorities for May the development of empowerment education • Development of education program • Pilot developed empowerment education program • Evaluation of education program June • Presentation to the community • Reflection and debrief on global experience • Data analysis of program evaluation July • Development of scholarly products

# **Implications**

- This proposal for advocacy and empowerment involves an interprofessional collaboration with community partners and resources available at the UT Health San Antonio.
- Empowerment of adolescents and their community can help to educate the public on safe sex and drug use as well as de-stigmatize the condition.



# Acknowledgements







#### References

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