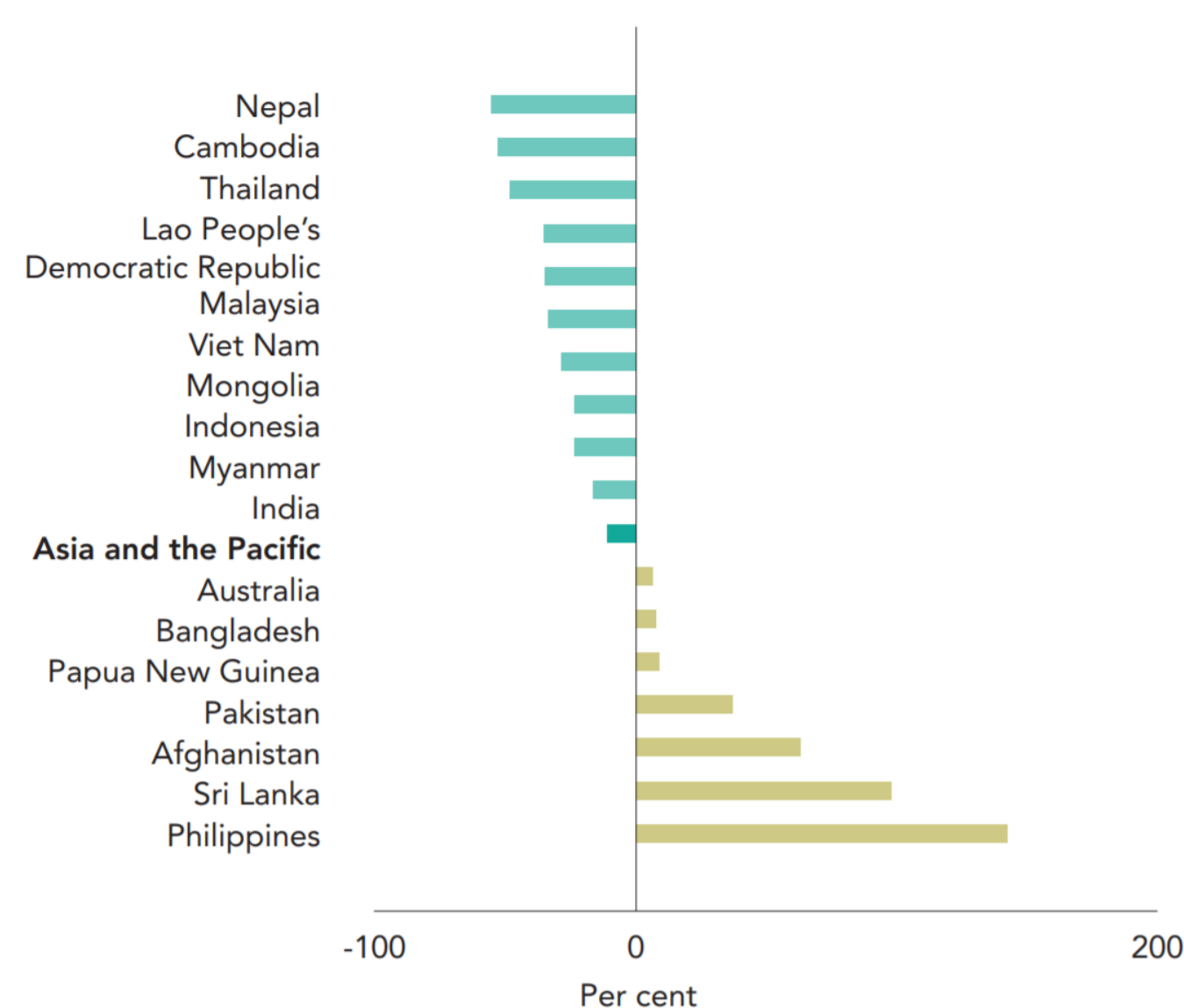


## Introduction and Background

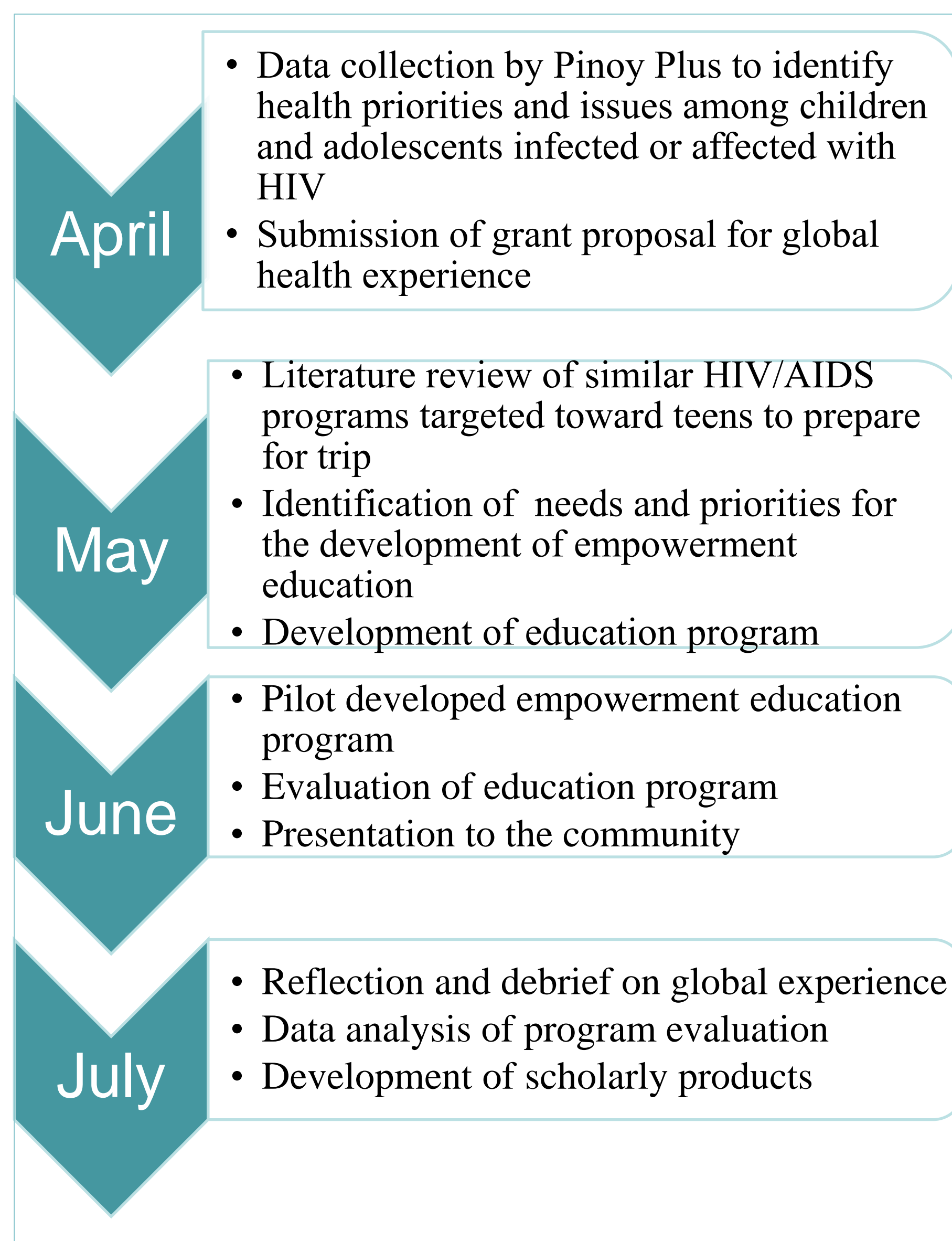
- The Philippines currently has the fastest HIV epidemic in Asia.<sup>1,2</sup>
- Reasons for this epidemic include cultural stigma around lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities and IV drug use.<sup>3,4</sup>
- Community organizations for and by people with HIV (PLHIV), such as Pinoy 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



## 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.



<https://www.avert.org/professionals/hiv-social-issues/stigma-discrimination>

## Acknowledgements



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