

Promoting Leadership and Mitigating the Negative Impacts of HIV and AIDS on Human Development

Background

The increasing trend in new HIV infections in the Philippines calls for sustained and effective national and local responses. Since the first AIDS case was reported in 1984, the Philippines has remained a low prevalence country with registered cases at less than 0.1% of the total population. However, recent official reports show a steep and accelerating increase in total number of cases. A multi-sectoral and broad-based approach is required to mitigate the negative impact of HIV and AIDS on human development and to achieve Goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals of halting and reducing the epidemic by 2015.



3rd Leadership Training for the Philippines' Regional AIDS Assistance Teams (RAAT), November 9 - 13, 2009, Marco Polo Plaza Hotel, Cebu City

Populations most at risk, such as female sex workers and their male clients, males who have sex with males, people who are injecting drugs and vulnerable populations such as Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), out-of-school youth, and street children

require comprehensive and targeted prevention programmes. Further, empowering people living with HIV (PLHIV) and facilitating their meaningful involvement in all stages of the response helps in reducing stigma and discrimination as well as promoting their rights at the institutional and community levels.

Response

The UNDP HIV Programme supports the goals of the Philippines' national AIDS response and complements the UN Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS. We develop comprehensive interventions that promote leadership, especially at the local level, strengthen capacities of institutions and organizations

At A Glance

Start Date: 2009

End Date: 2011

Implementing Partners: Department of Interior and Local Government - Local Government Academy (DILG-LGA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Health Action Information Network (HAIN) and Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC)

Other key partners: Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), National Economic and Development Authority-Social Development Staff (NEDA-SDS), Action for Health Initiatives (ACHIEVE), National Association of Filipinos Living with HIV and AIDS (NAFWA), TLF Sexuality, Health and Rights Educators Collective, Inc. (TLF SHARE), Pinoy Plus Association, Positive Action Foundation Philippines Inc. (PAFPI), Babae Plus, UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNICEF

Award Name and ID: 00056853 Leadership, HIV and AIDS and Human Development

Total budget for 3 years: US\$ 1,172,679

UNDP Philippines: US\$ 600,000

UNDP Regional/Global: US\$ 150,000

Donor (cost-sharing): US\$ 422,679

working on HIV issues, implement targeted HIV prevention programmes among populations most at risk, and support research and comprehensive management of information on specific vulnerable groups for more efficient policies and programmes. The Programme consists of five components that respond to the current and emerging needs of the Philippines AIDS Medium Term Plan.

■ **Leadership for Effective and Sustained Responses to HIV and AIDS** harmonizes efforts with the Philippines National AIDS Council (PNAC) and the UN Joint Team on AIDS (UNJTA) to strengthen sustainable local AIDS responses through the development of leadership capacities of Local Government Units (LGUs) and the Regional AIDS Assistance Teams (RAATs).

■ **Strengthen Institutional Capacities and Partnerships on HIV and Migration** supports the UN Joint Programme on HIV and Migration through regional mobility initiatives to enhance the capacity of overseas government attachés to advocate and provide

rights-based services to women OFWs. It will also reinforce and further integrate gender-sensitive awareness and HIV prevention for women OFWs into government-mandated and private sector-led pre-departure seminars and training programmes.

■ **Mitigating the Economic and Psychosocial Impacts of HIV and AIDS** reviews and strengthens current PLHIV referral mechanisms to provide support services, including psychosocial services, and enable PLHIV OFWs to be economically productive upon re-entry to the country. This component integrates and mainstreams direct PLHIV case management into the livelihood and psychosocial support services of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

■ **Strategic Information and Community Leadership among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) and Transgender (TG)** reviews and analyzes current community based responses to HIV among MSMs and prepares 'comprehensive package services' to encourage effective community responses as well as build and support the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) to effectively utilize strategic information and participate in local government responses to HIV and AIDS.



■ **Knowledge, Communication and Advocacy to Promote Deeper Understanding of HIV and AIDS** enhances policy and programme planning on HIV and AIDS by strengthening advocacy and strategic information to promote a multi-sector response. It identifies and assists in the production of strategic information to address the knowledge gaps in the Philippines AIDS responses and functions as a platform to support the involvement of multi-sector partners to increase the scale and scope of AIDS advocacy and anti-stigma initiatives. One key activity is researching relationships between HIV and AIDS-related infections and people who are injecting drugs.

Expected key results

- Strengthen leadership and institutional capacities of national, regional, and local government implementing and coordinating bodies to plan, implement, and monitor sustained, rights-based, and gender-responsive policies and programmes on HIV and AIDS
- Enhance knowledge base and strategic information for effective policy support for most-at-risk and vulnerable populations and evidence-based planning and programming enhance; advocate for broad-based use to key stakeholders
- Enhance capacity of MSM community-based organizations to engage in policy, budget making and programme development processes and scale up effective community-based interventions
- Integrate rights-based HIV prevention and education activities into established government and private sector pre-departure and pre-employment programmes
- Institutionalize and coordinate with government and civil society organizations for referral systems for accessible psychosocial care and economic support services for people living with HIV and their affected families

Achievements to date

- Issued DILG-DSWD-DOH Joint Memorandum Circular governing formation and operation of Regional AIDS Assistance Teams (RAAT) in Nov. 2009
- Developed the Program Manual for Care and Support Services for People Living with HIV and AIDS and their Affected Families
- Conducted the First National Conference on MSM/TG and HIV in July 2009; identified MSM and TG sub-groups and those that previously received MSM services and interventions
- Conducted Governance Advocacy Workshops in 3 specific target sites where key human rights issues of local MSM groups were identified
- Conducted three Leadership Trainings in 2009 for the Regional AIDS Assistance Teams (RAAT) and local partners to increase knowledge, skills, and understanding of HIV
- Held two workshops in Nov. 2009 to build knowledge and skills for Foreign Service Officers, Labor Attaches, and Welfare Officers on handling HIV and AIDS issues among OFWs
- Held the National Training of Trainers of Social Workers on Care and Support Services for PLHIV and Affected Families in Nov. 2009 to strengthen capacity of social workers in mitigating the economic and psychosocial impacts of HIV and AIDS
- Conducted a training workshop on program evaluation for MSM groups working on HIV and AIDS issues in 2009

To contribute to this initiative, or to find out more about the work of UNDP Philippines, please visit our website at www.undp.org.ph, or contact Ms. Fe Cabral, Programme Associate for HIV & AIDS, at (+632) 901.0249 or send her an e-mail at fe.cabral@undp.org

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